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TRANSPORTABLE TIME DOMAIN DISCRIMINANTS

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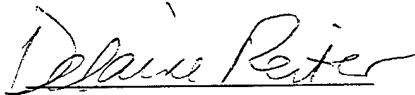
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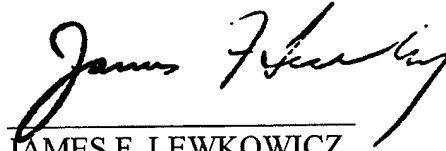
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TRANSPORTABLE TIME DOMAIN DISCRIMINANTS

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Abstract

We have examined broadband waveforms from a large number of NTS explosions and earthquakes throughout the southwestern United States in order to characterize seismic sources. Explosions were found to be richer in coda energy than earthquakes. Most earthquakes show relatively little long-period ($T > 4$ sec) coda energy and tend to be richer in long-period and shear-wave energy than explosions. We have developed several seismic discriminants based on these observations and our modeling experience. One promising discriminant is the ratio of short-period vertical component, P-wave train energy, to long-period surface wave energy, averaged over three components. Explosions tend to have a higher ratio than do earthquakes, essentially an extension of $m_b:M_s$. Magnitude threshold for this discriminant is about 3.5. Another useful discriminant is based on the total broadband energy to moment ratio where explosions are distinguished by their stronger energy levels relative to their long-period amplitudes. This approach requires Green's functions, a source estimator program, and processes all events as earthquakes. For this method to be effective requires the calibration of the region using relatively large earthquakes, $M > 5$, but does not require calibrations of explosions.

1. Introduction

A number of broadband arrays have been introduced in recent years. One such array, TERRAScope, is presently being installed in southern California, see Figure 1. These stations are a part of the global IRIS (International Research Institution for Seismology) network. Presumably the IRIS network, in conjunction with short-period arrays, will provide some of the essential data necessary for worldwide monitoring of seismic activity. Unfortunately, station spacing in remote areas is rather sparse. Thus, we may have to rely on a single station to characterize events and to distinguish an explosion from an earthquake. This task will be difficult, but may be possible in regions that have an abundance of earthquakes that can be used to calibrate regional paths. We envision an environment not unlike that of western United States and thus we can use the

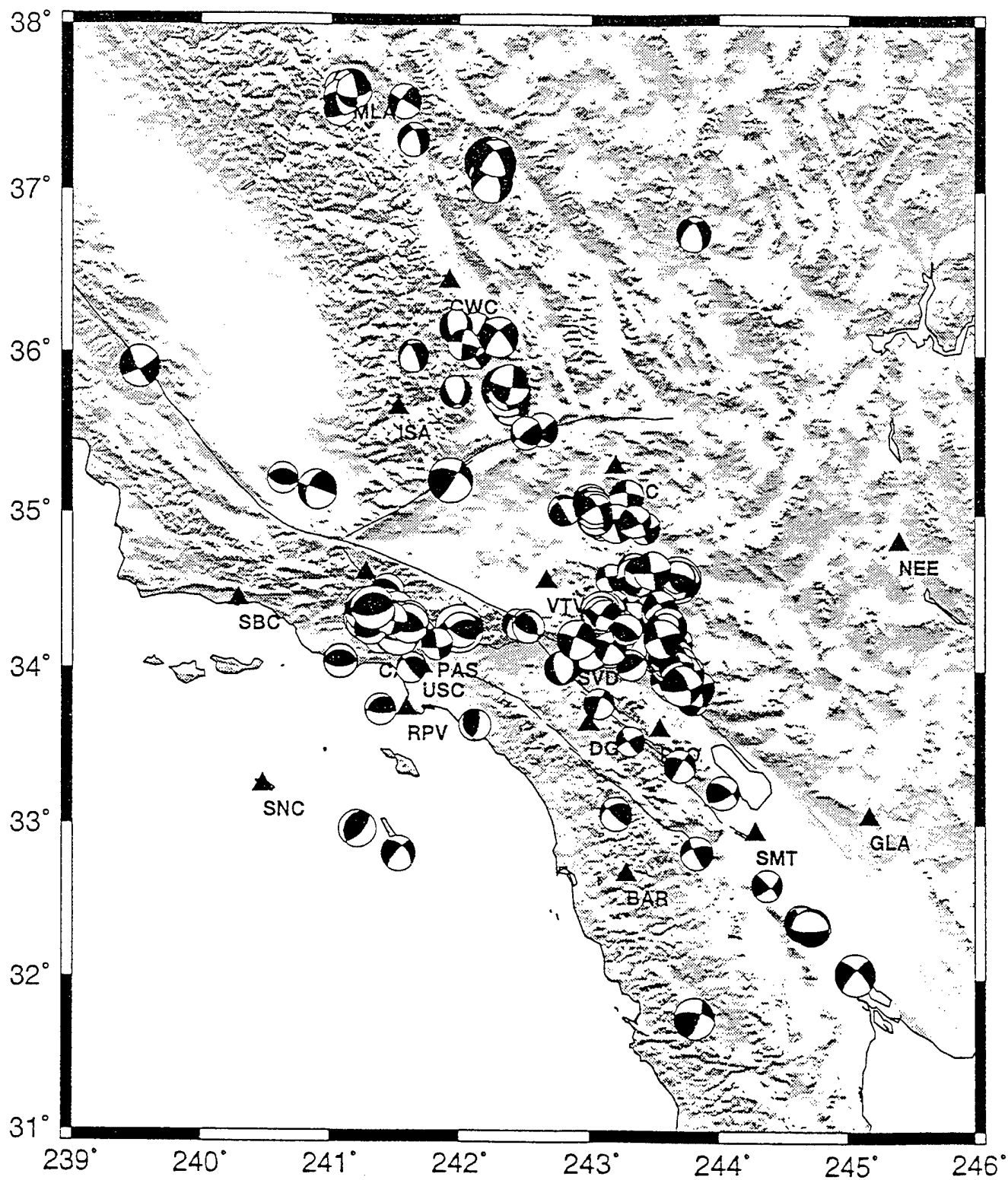


Figure 1

population of NTS events and the natural seismicity to construct and test such a methodology. Before discussing regional calibration and the development of energy discrimination techniques, we will first briefly review the observational differences between explosions and earthquakes.

Most of the useful regional discriminants for populations of explosions and earthquakes in this region have been discussed by Taylor *et al.* (1989). Their results suggest that $m_b:M_S$ works very well for well-calibrated paths but they had difficulty in determining M_S for explosions smaller than about $m_b=4$. In contrast, they report M_S for earthquakes with m_b 's as small as 2.5. The characteristics of events as described above are quite compatible with TERRAscope observations, as displayed in Figure 2, where seismograms of the Kearsarge explosion is compared with the Skull Mountain and the Lee Vining earthquake. The locations of these events and the recording station are shown in Figure 3. The earthquakes were chosen to be ones that have source to receiver paths similar to that of NTS explosions so that propagation effects are minimized. The middle column displays the broadband records. The waveforms on the left are convolved with a short-period instrument, and the waveforms on the right are convolved with a long-period instrument. Peak amplitudes are printed to the right of each trace. Comparing the ratio of peak short to long-period amplitudes (column 5, Table 1), it is apparent that the explosions are richer in high frequency energy relative to the earthquakes.

Below, each seismic trace is its energy integral. The short to long-period energy ratios show similar trends. For the earthquakes there are two large step increases in the energy; the first is the P-wave train and the second is at the onset of the S-wave train. Although the explosions show the same behavior, the second step is not as pronounced, as explosions tend to generate relatively small amounts of shear wave energy. If the short-period energy is only integrated over the P-wave train window (approximately the first 40 sec. of the wave train), the short to long-energy ratio should show even greater separation between the two source types as discussed later. Simulations of the broadband data appropriate for various instruments are included since this type of data is normally used in defining m_b and M_L (WASP), and M_S (LP). Note that because the paths are nearly identical, this difference must be caused either by the source excitation and/or epicenter depth. Thus, it appears that $m_b:M_S$ can be extended to small events if the Rayleigh waves can be detected.

In Figure 4, we display more of TERRAscope data for the small NTS explosion Floydada where the Rayleigh waves are quite apparent even at long-periods. Note that the surface wave amplitudes indicate that these signals would not be discernible on the actual analog instruments. M_L for this event is 4.0 and its log moment is 14.20, Woods *et*

Skull Mtn, Lee Vining, Kearsarge and Floydada at PAS, Vert. comp.

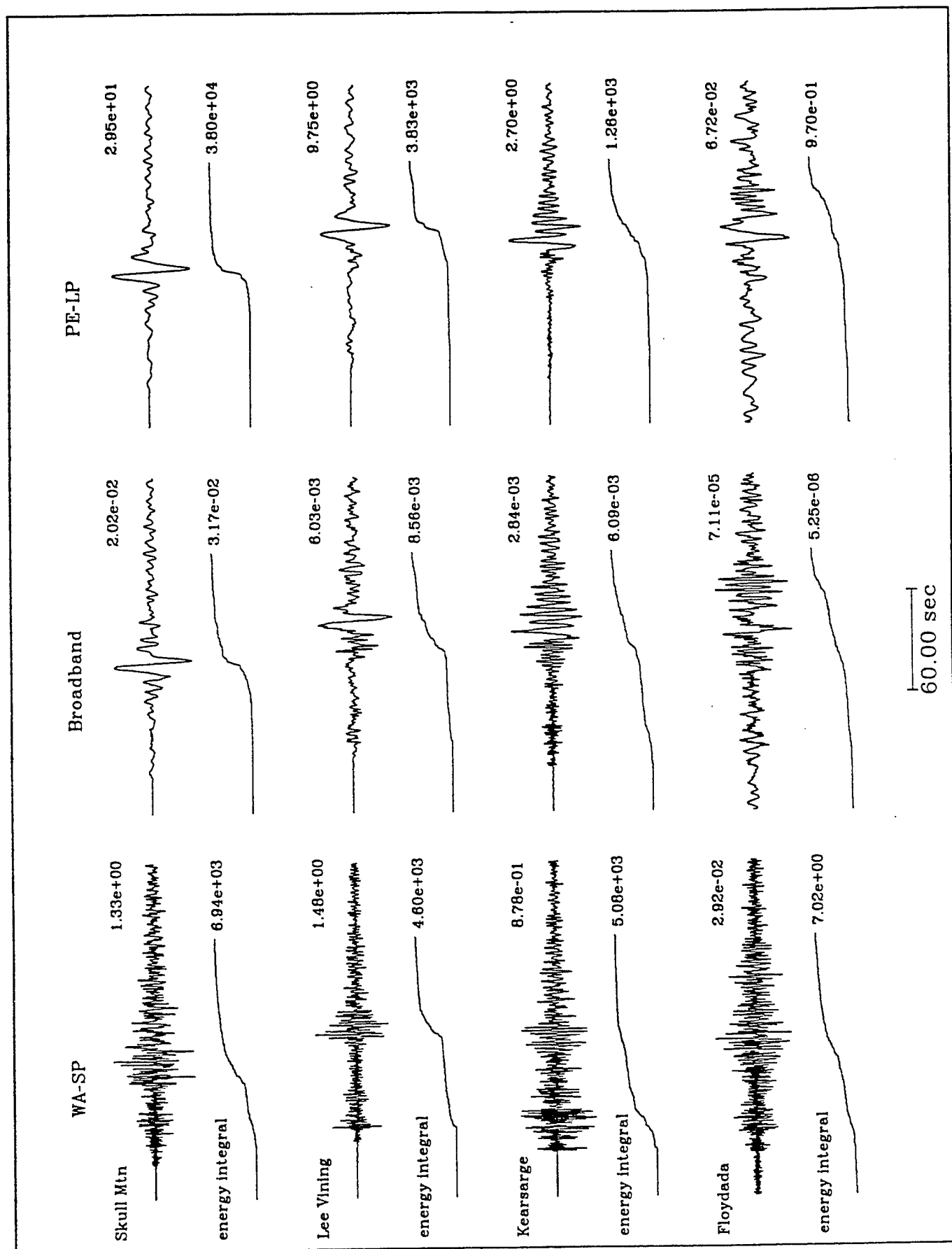


Figure 2

Study Area

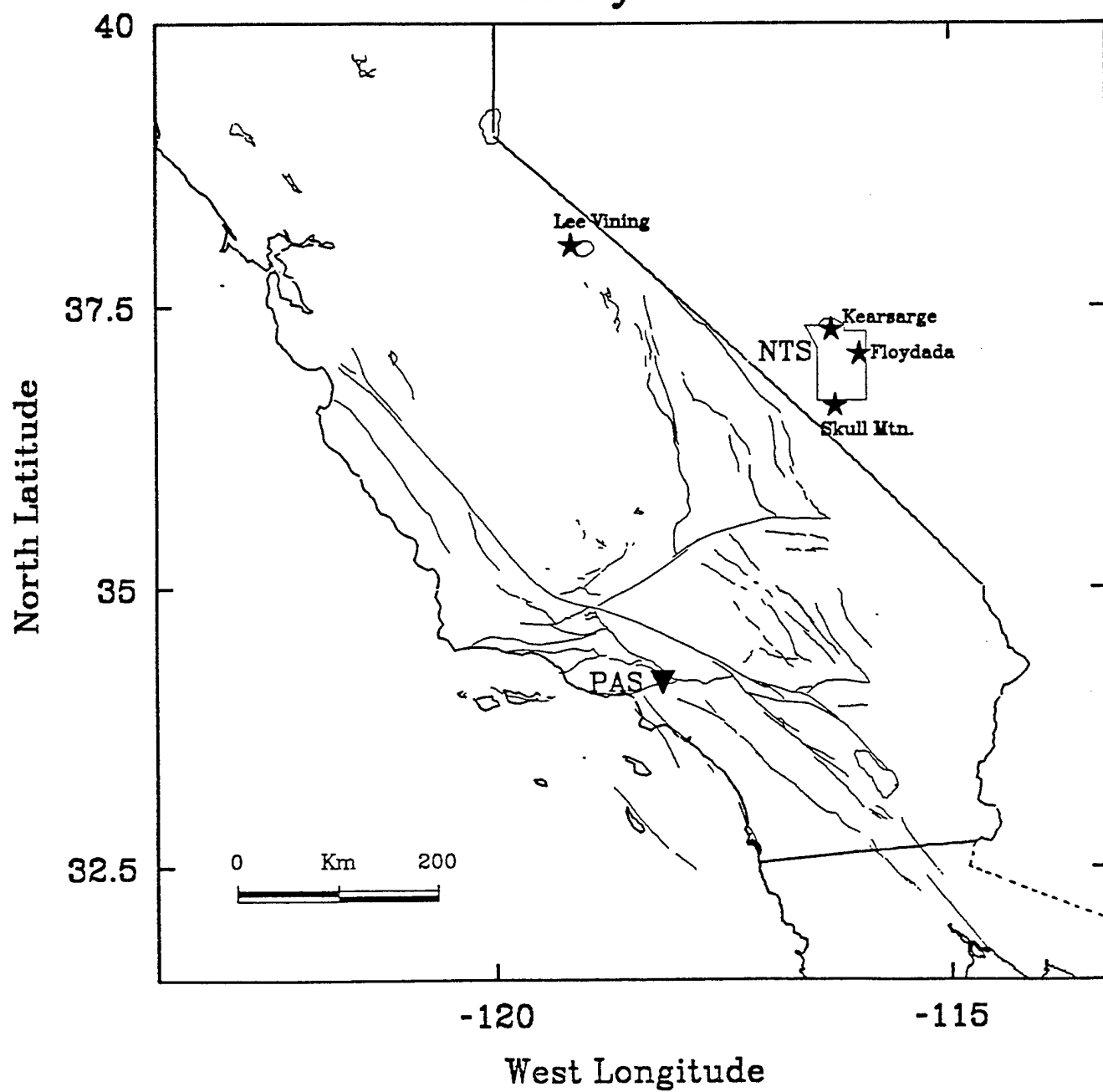


Figure 3

al. (1993). Assuming it is a shallow explosion above the water table, the yield can be inferred to be less than 10 kt from the moment-yield scaling relationships determined for NTS by Woods and Harkrider (1994). Were it detonated in hard rock below the water table it would correspond to a two kiloton explosion. We estimate that were this event 2.5 times lower in yield, it would still be possible to obtain its moment, yielding a magnitude threshold of about 3.5. These observations are quite typical of small NTS events where only the fundamental Rayleigh wave Airy phase is detectable and reasonably predictable across the array.

Thus, it appears that regional seismograms from explosions are indeed higher frequency than earthquakes with comparable Rayleigh wave excitation. This feature is explored by Patton and Walter (1993), in a study of well-calibrated $m_b:M_s$ and the $m_b:M_0$ discriminants. Their results produced a clear separation as does the $M_L:M_0$ discriminant proposed by Woods *et al.* (1993). The latter results are displayed in Figure 5. Note there is a significant separation of earthquakes and explosions with no real overlap over all scales. However, many of the M_0 's for these explosions were determined by assuming shallow isotropic excitation (Woods *et al.*, 1993), and thus while this approach demonstrates that the high-frequency vs. low-frequency source characterizations remain valid to small magnitudes, it may have limited usefulness as a direct discriminant.

Another difficulty with the $M_L:M_0$ discriminant is in the development of a physical basis. While the M_L measure is easily simulated for earthquakes it proves problematical for explosions. For example, in examining Figure 4, we find that the peak short-period amplitude usually occurs on the tangential component. This is difficult to explain with the conventional symmetric RDP (Reduced Displacement Potential) formalism and require some type of mode conversion. Presumably, the large amount of local Rayleigh wave energy released by the source into the slow-velocity source region gets scattered into the crustal wave guide (e.g., Stead and Helmberger, 1988). We find the broadband (BB) records from earthquakes occurring in the normal seismogenic depths of 4 to 15 kms to be relatively simple as discussed in the next section. Thus, we will explore the possibility of using the ratio of accumulated energy to surface wave magnitude or M_0 as a discriminant.

To pursue this approach we will assume all events are earthquakes with respect to estimating source parameters. Explosions are then distinguished by their excess short-period energy. However, to obtain meaningful estimates of source parameters from regional waveforms does require a crustal model and useful Green's functions. These can be obtained by modeling moderate sized earthquakes.

Table 1: Discrimination Parameters for Figure 2 Events

Event	M_L	$\log(M_0)$	$\log(M_0) - M_L$	SP-LP Amp. Ratio	SP-LP Energy Ratio	SP(P-wave)-LP Energy Ratio
Skull Mtn.	5.6	17.4	11.8	0.045	0.18	0.045
Lee Vining	5.0	16.7	11.7	0.150	1.20	0.380
Kearsarge	5.5	15.6	10.1	0.33	4.03	1.84
Floydada	4.0	14.2	10.2	0.43	7.24	2.78

Floydada (Yucca Flats), $M_L=4.0$

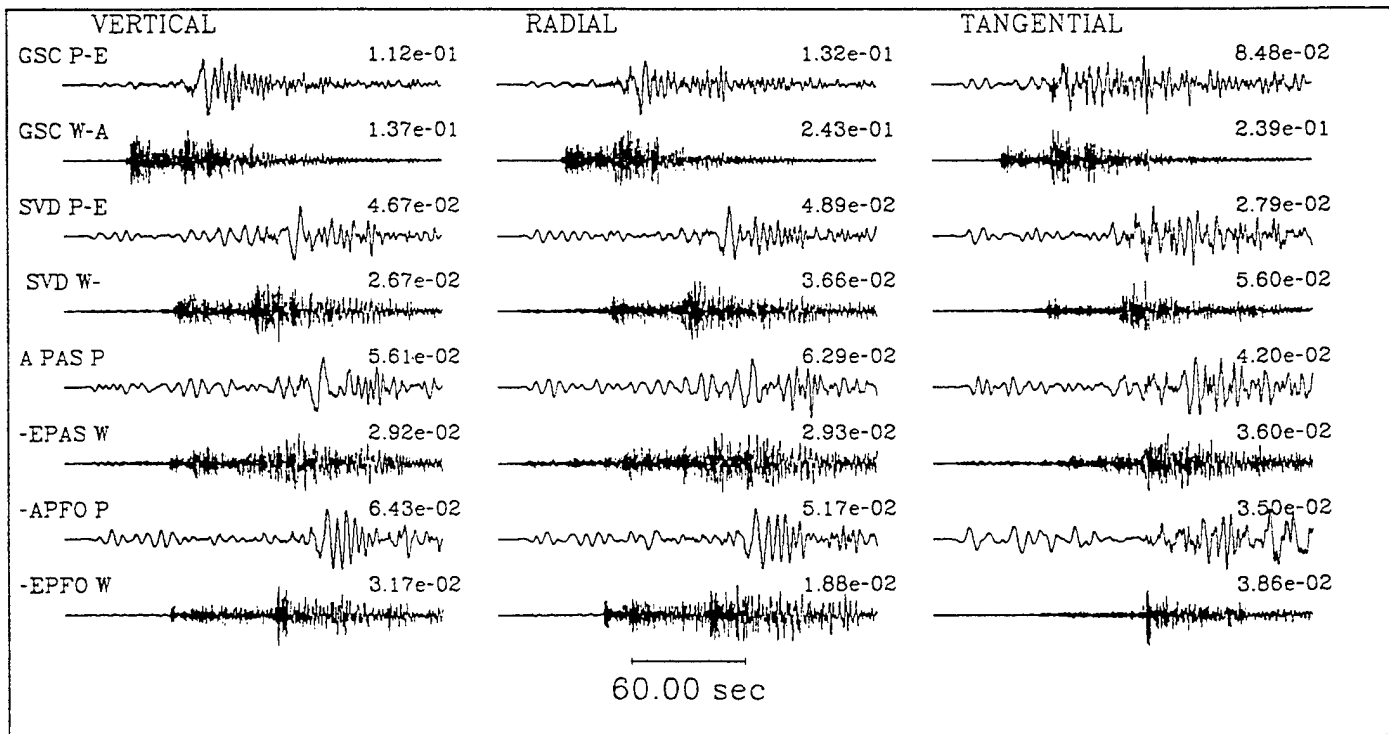


Figure 4

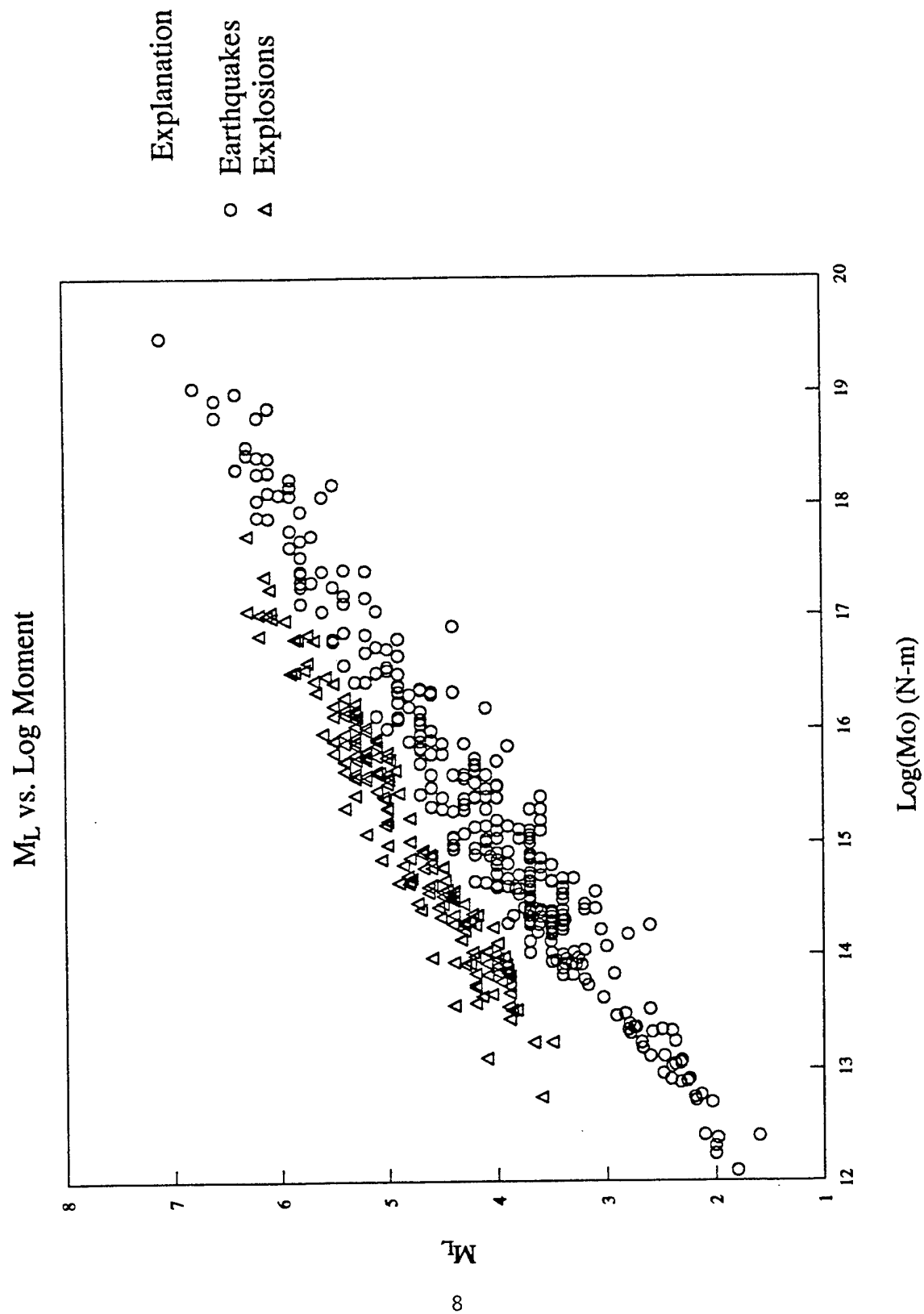


Figure 5

2. Estimation of Earthquake Parameters

Essentially, three new methods have been developed to take advantage of the new instrumentation: the CMT (Centroid Moment Tensor) solution at long-periods, Patton (1980), Thio and Kanamori (1995), and others, (Ritsema and Lay, 1993), inversion of long-period body waveforms (Dreger and Helmberger, 1993), Fan and Wallace (1991) and others, and a broadband cut and paste (CAP) method by Zhao and Helmberger (1994).

For events larger than $M_w > 5$, it is possible to invert surface wave records for periods greater than 50 seconds assuming the PREM model (Dziewonski and Anderson, 1981) by employing a CMT procedure. At shorter periods the surface waves show regional variation, and corresponding regionalized models are required (see for example, Patton and Zandt, 1991; Thio and Kanamori, 1992).

The second method uses the relative strengths of the observed body waves compared with synthetics to determine mechanisms, moment, and depth. Often, only one station is sufficient to fix the source parameters, since S (SV and SH) and sS (SV and SH) are strongly dependent upon source orientation. Cycling through source depths the proper timing between P and pP, S and sS can be established, etc. allows accurate depth estimates. This approach works best at periods greater than a few seconds and therefore we usually work with long-period bandpassed records. The Southern California model (SC), Dreger and Helmberger (1991), displayed in Figure 6 works well in terms of producing synthetics that match data throughout the entire region, as reported by Dreger and Helmberger (1993).

The third approach uses a direct grid search for the fault parameters (strike (θ), dip (δ), rake (λ)). This method matches complete broadband observed seismograms against synthetics over discrete phases so that timing shifts between particular wave groups are allowed. That is, in matching a synthetic seismogram to the observed record, we may allow the Rayleigh wave to be shifted relative to the $P_n l$ wavetrain. This allows a better correlation, thus the name cut-and-paste method (CAP). This feature desensitizes the effect of the crustal model used in generating the synthetics and allows stable estimates of the source parameters with imperfect Green's functions. We demonstrate this conjecture by generating fault parameters for a number of regional events using two strongly contrasting crustal models, the SC model and a basin and range model (PB) by Priestley and Brune (1978), displayed in Figure 6. The source parameter determinations are given in Table 1 for three large events in the region: the Utah event, the Little Skull Mountain event, and the Arizona event. Paths connecting these events to the

TERRAScope stations provide a good sample of the propagational features of the region, see Figure 7.

A comparison of the waveform fits assuming the PB model is displayed in Figures 8 and 9. The numbers above each trace indicates the peak amplitude and the moment estimate comes from a least square fit where the individual amplitude comparison indicates the relative contribution of that trace to the average moment. The relative shifts of the various phases is discussed in Zhao and Helmberger (1994).

3. Source Estimation Using True Amplitude Waveforms

Let $u(t)$ be the observed displacement. The corresponding synthetic displacement $s(t)$ for a double-couple source can be expressed as:

$$s(t) = M_0 \sum A_i (\phi - \theta, \delta, \lambda) G_i(t), \quad (1)$$

here, $i=1,2,3$ corresponds to three fundamental faults, i.e., vertical strike-slip, vertical dip-slip, and 45° dip-slip. G_i 's are the Green's functions, A_i 's are the radiation coefficients, and ϕ is the station azimuth. M_0 is scalar moment; θ , δ , and λ are strike, dip, and rake of the source that we want to determine from $u(t)$. They can be estimated by solving the equation

$$u(t) = s(t). \quad (2)$$

Since there are only limited unknown parameters and all of them are limited to a range of values ($0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, $0 \leq \delta \leq \pi/2$, $0 \leq \lambda \leq 2\pi$), it is convenient to solve the above non-linear equation by grid search method. We define an object function to measure the misfit error between u and s and search through the parameter space to find the global minimum of the object function.

In Zhao and Helmberger (1994), the misfit error is defined as the norm ($L1$ or $L2$) of the difference between u and s normalized by the norms of both u and s :

$$e = \frac{\|u - s\|}{\|u\| + \|s\|}, \quad (3)$$

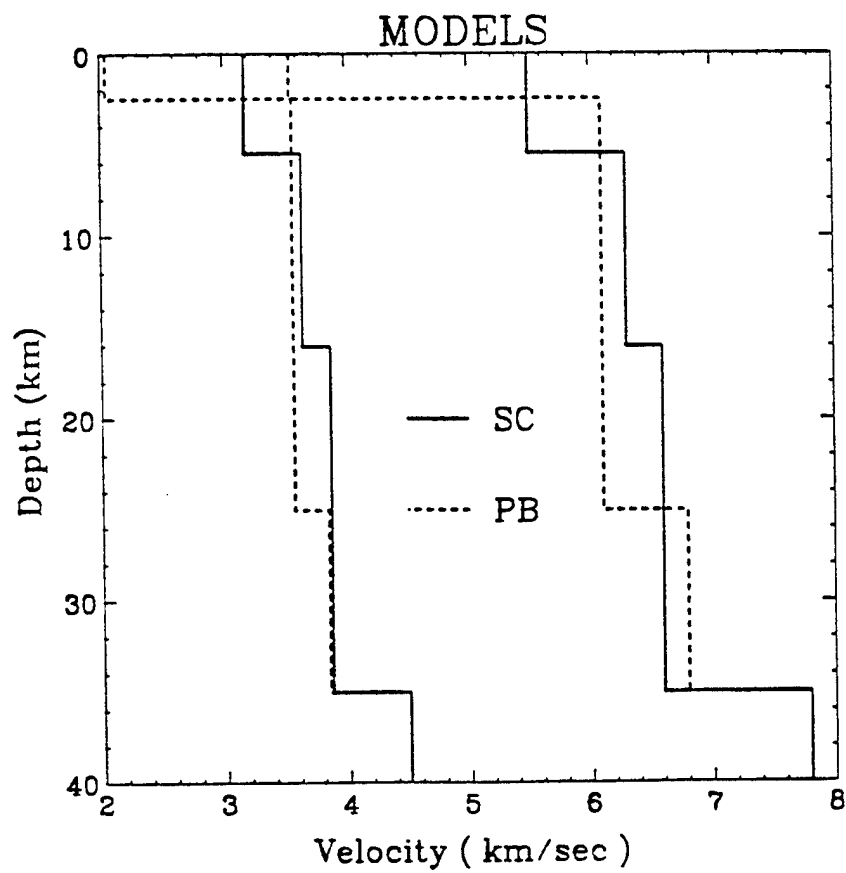


Figure 6

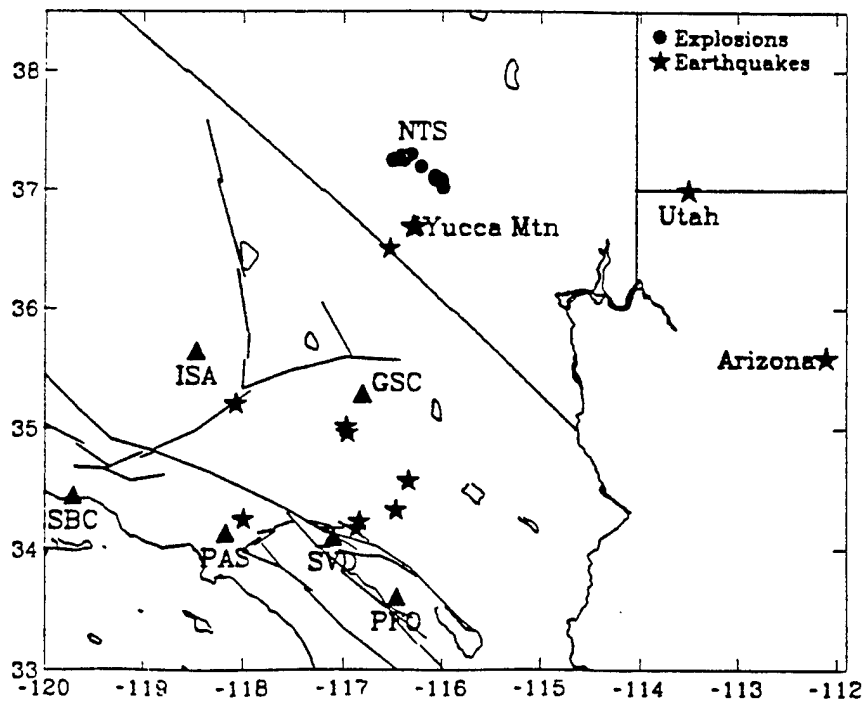


Figure 7

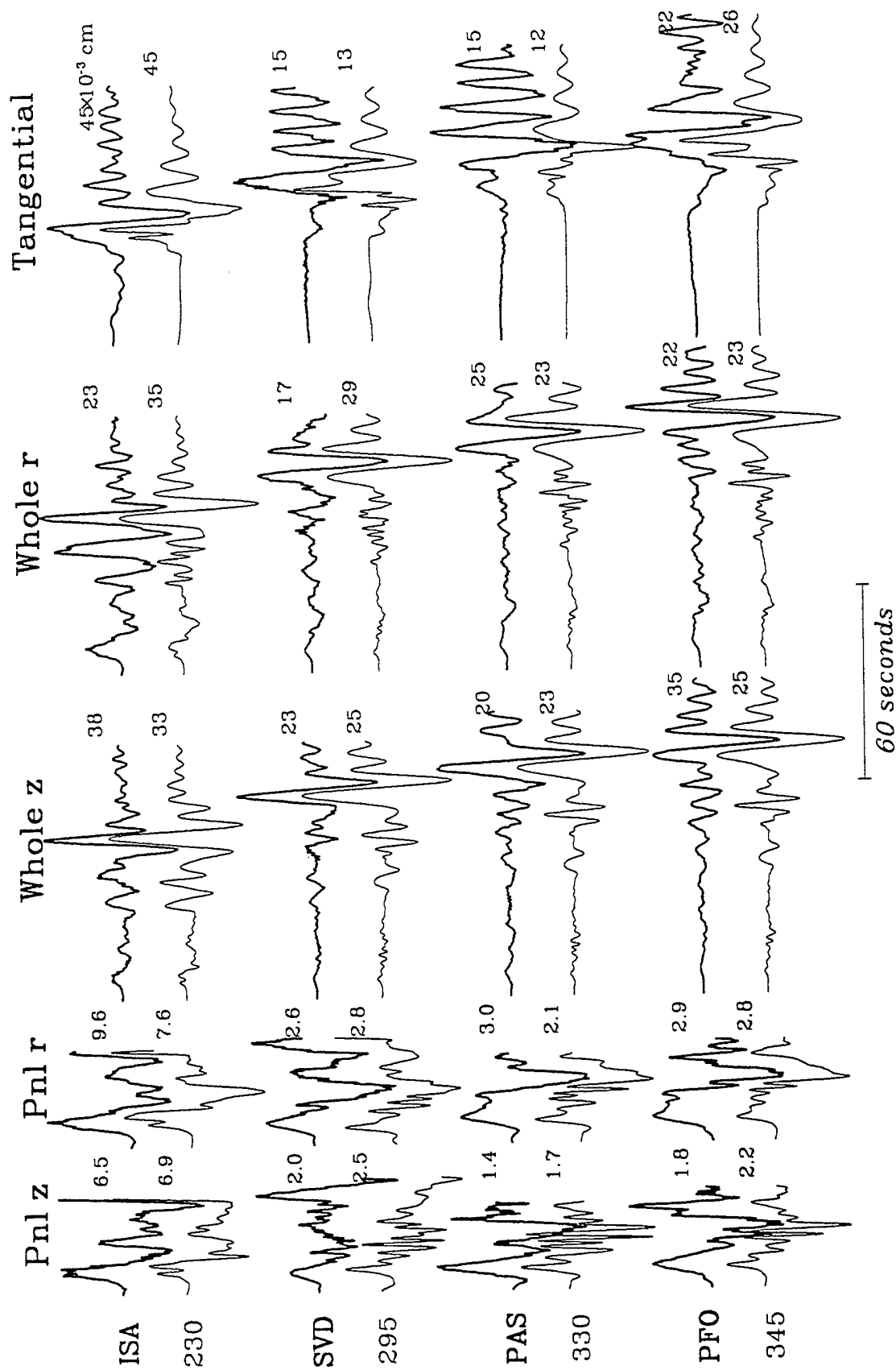


Figure 8

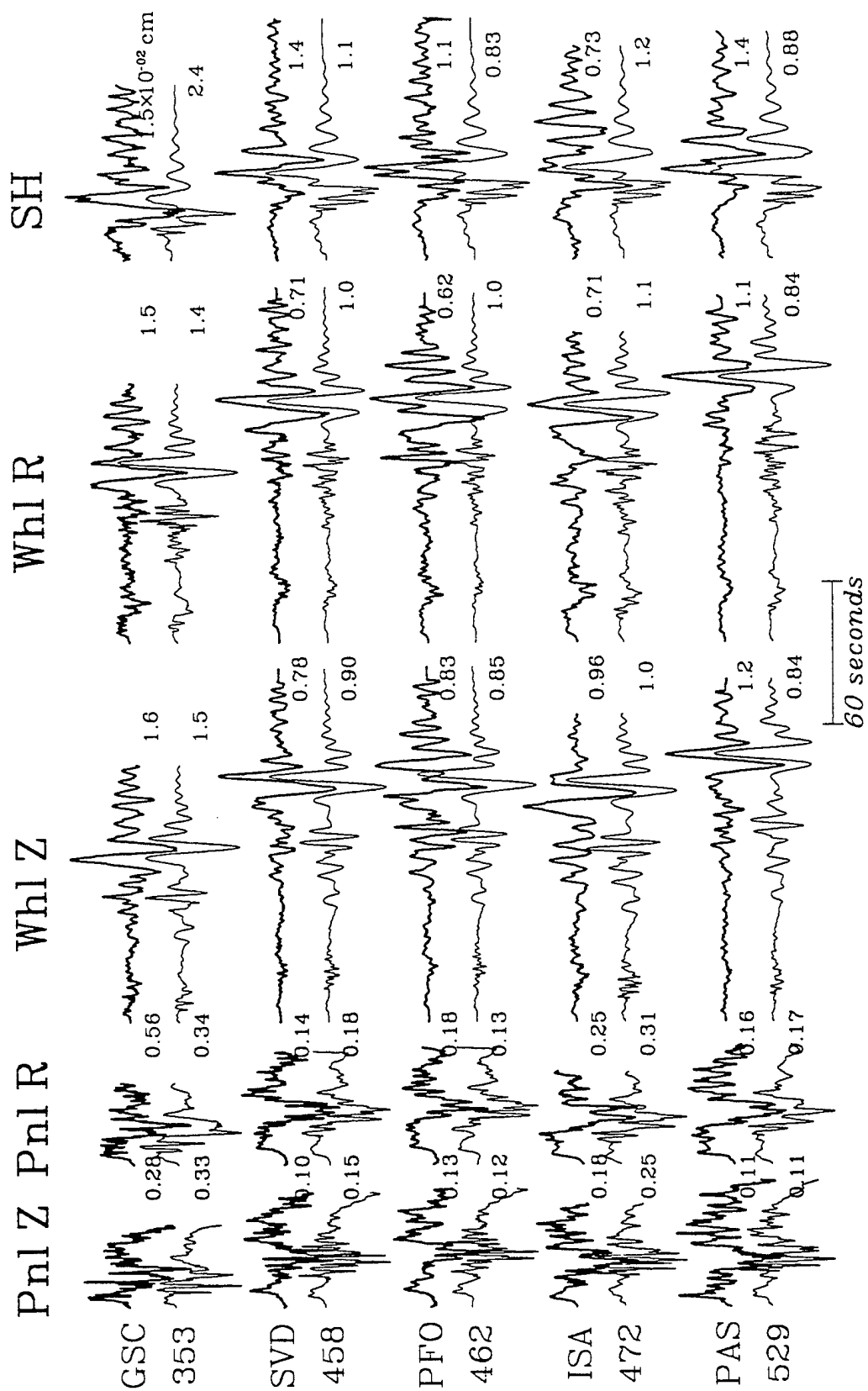


Figure 9

Because Pnl usually has smaller amplitude than surface waves, this normalization helps to weight Pnl and surface waves equally. It also prevents the inversion from being complete dominated by the strongest station, which is usually the nearest station, if several stations at different distance ranges are used. However, the amplitude information is lost during the normalization. Some of this information, such as amplitude ratios of Pnl to-surface waves and SV -to- SH , provide important constraints on the source orientation and depth. A more severe problem with this normalization is that it introduces singularities in the source parameter space at those points where source orientation generates nodal synthetics (where the norm of the synthetics vanishes). In the case when the data includes nodal records, the grid search will miss the true minimum.

As an example, Figure 10 shows the misfit error as defined by (3) as a function of dip and rake (the location of the event and the waveforms are displayed in Figure 11). The global minimum is very obscure. The error surface is distorted by some peaks and ridges which are associated with singularities introduced by the normalization. Figure 10b is the misfit error using true amplitudes without normalization:

$$e = \| u - s \| . \quad (4)$$

It has a well defined minimum at $\delta = 80^\circ$, $\lambda = -15^\circ$. Note that the P - SV waves at station PFO, GSC, and ISA are close to nodal (Figure 2), which are well matched by the solution. But the solution in Figure 10a is offset by 15° in rake and the corresponding synthetics have larger P - SV amplitudes compared with the data (Figure 11).

This particular example of waveform modeling exposes the difficulties encountered at nodes. Since the P - SV motions are near nodal to the north, the radial and vertical components are easily contaminated by SH motions (see reference lines in Figure 11). The "cut and paste" aspect of the search procedure moves the synthetic Rayleigh wave forward attempting to capture some of this energy to constrain mechanism. The modified method tends to suppress such spurious attempt. However, its M_0 estimation could be somewhat low since scattered energy is less well sampled, as suggested in this comparison.

Using true-amplitude waveforms for source inversion usually leads to the problem of the closest station dominating the inversion when stations are distributed over a large distance range. Figure 12 shows misfit errors as a function of distance. These misfit errors were obtained through a global search applying expression (4) to 335 southern Californian regional events of $M_L \geq 3.5$.

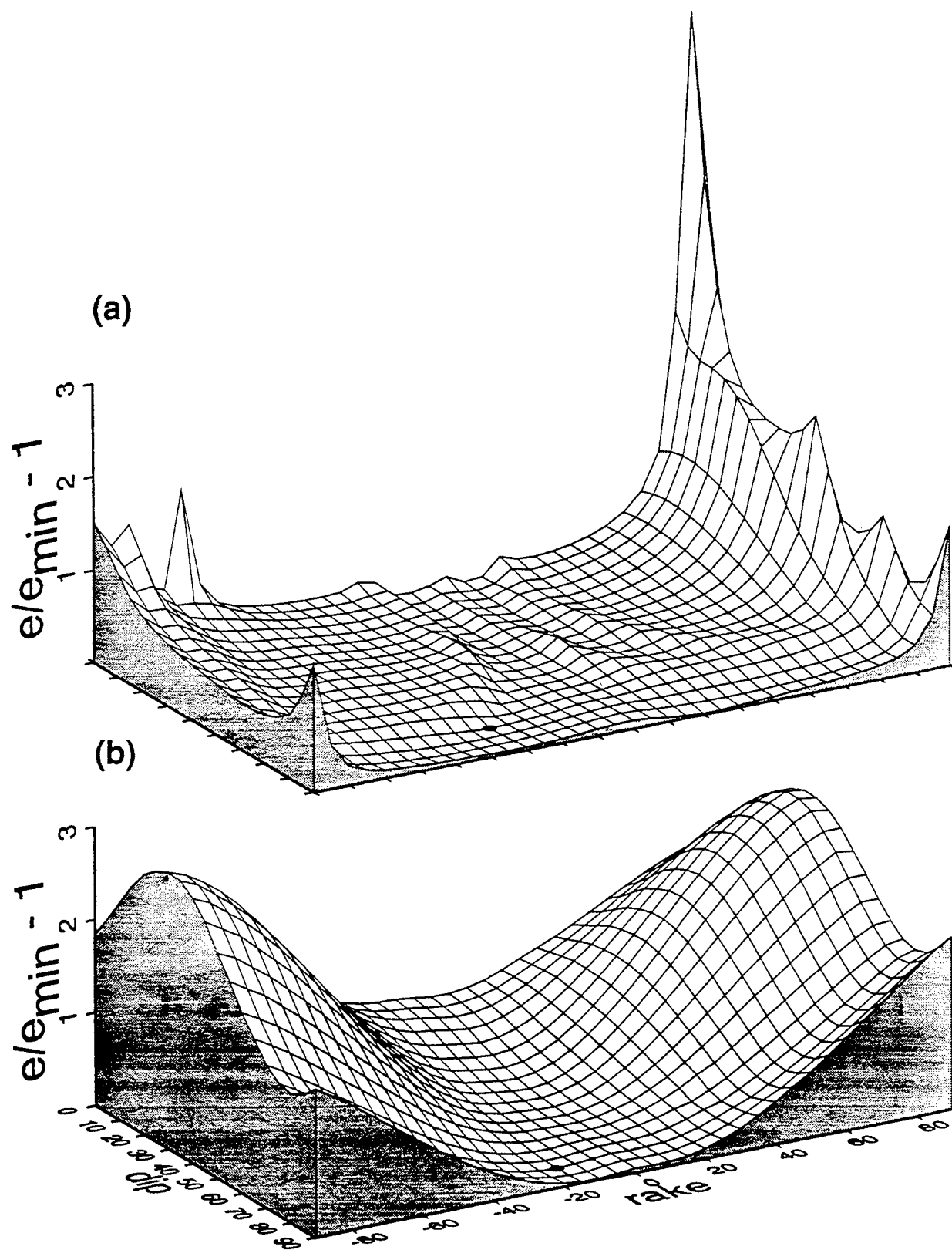
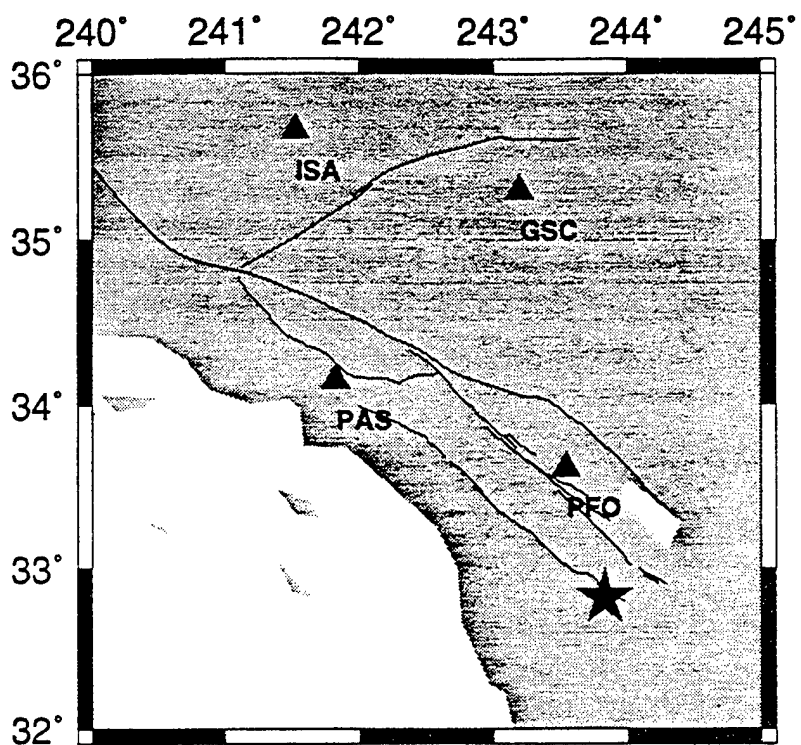


Figure 10



(a) 245/75/-30 Mw 4.0



(b) 250/80/-15 Mw 3.8

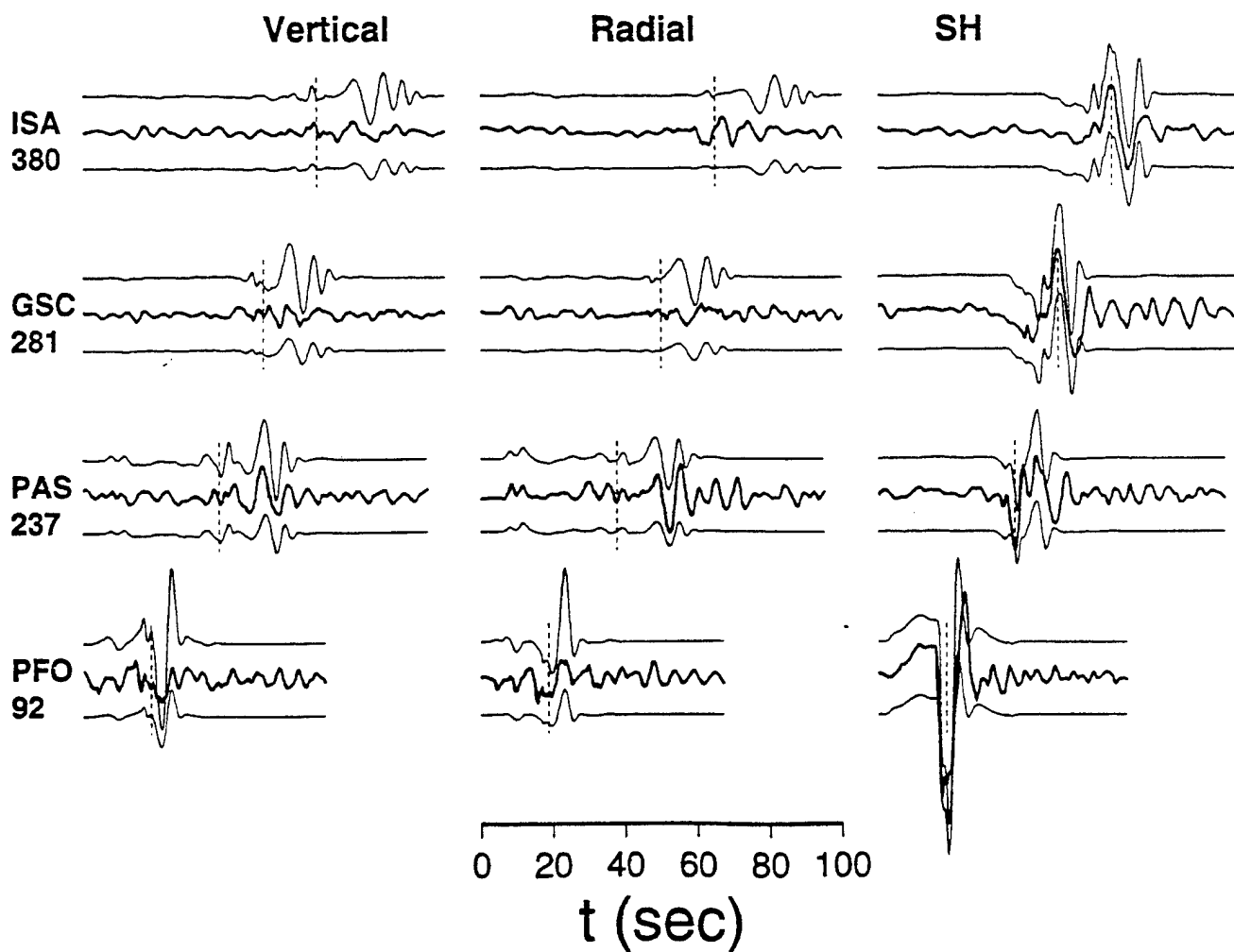


Figure 11

The misfits of surface waves have larger scatter than body waves, which are expected because surface waves are more easily affected by shallow heterogeneity. It has been shown that *Pnl* at range of 300 km to 1000 km is quite stable (Helmberger and Engen, 1980) and easily inverted for source mechanisms (Wallace and Helmberger, 1982). At closer range, the details of the moho transition plays a more important role as well as the PL waves trapped in the shallow crust (Song and Helmberger, 1996). Since both of these features show strong local variation, we should expect the large scatter displayed in Figure 12 at closer distances. However, because the *Pnl*'s at nearest stations play an essential role in early warning (Scrivner and Helmberger, 1996), the local structure should probably be added to each station. This approach will be pursued in future efforts.

Despite the scatter of data in Figure 12, the misfit errors show a rapid decay with distance. Since radiation patterns have been taken out, this decay is related to the amplitude decay due to geometrical spreading and attenuation. To compensate for this decay, we introduce a distance range scaling factor and define the misfit error for a record at a distance r as

$$e = \left\| \left(\frac{r}{r_0} \right)^p \cdot \| u - s \| \right\|, \quad (5)$$

here p is a scaling factor to give the record at r the same weight as that at reference distance r_0 . If we assume a spherical geometrical spreading for body waves and cylindrical geometrical spreading for surface waves, an appropriate choice of p would be $p=1$ for body waves, and $p=0.5$ for surface waves. For southern California, the p -values determined from Figure 12 are 1.13 for *Pnl*, 0.55 for Love waves, and 0.74 for Rayleigh waves. The scatter in the figure is large especially at the smaller distances, suggesting considerable variation in local structure and the need for regionalization. Nevertheless, it appears that the p -values derived from geometrical spreading are reasonably good for the period range (5 to 100 sec) used in waveform inversion.

We have applied the technique to all available regional events of $M_L \geq 3.5$ recorded by TERRAscope back to 1990. A total of 335 focal mechanism solutions are obtained. Although a large number of them are aftershocks of the 1992 Landers and 1994 Northridge earthquakes, the data set still gives a good sampling of active source regions in southern California (Figure 1). Figure 13 is the comparison of inverted focal depths and M_0 with the depths and M_L determined by the southern California short-period network (from Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) Catalog). M_0 vs. M_L

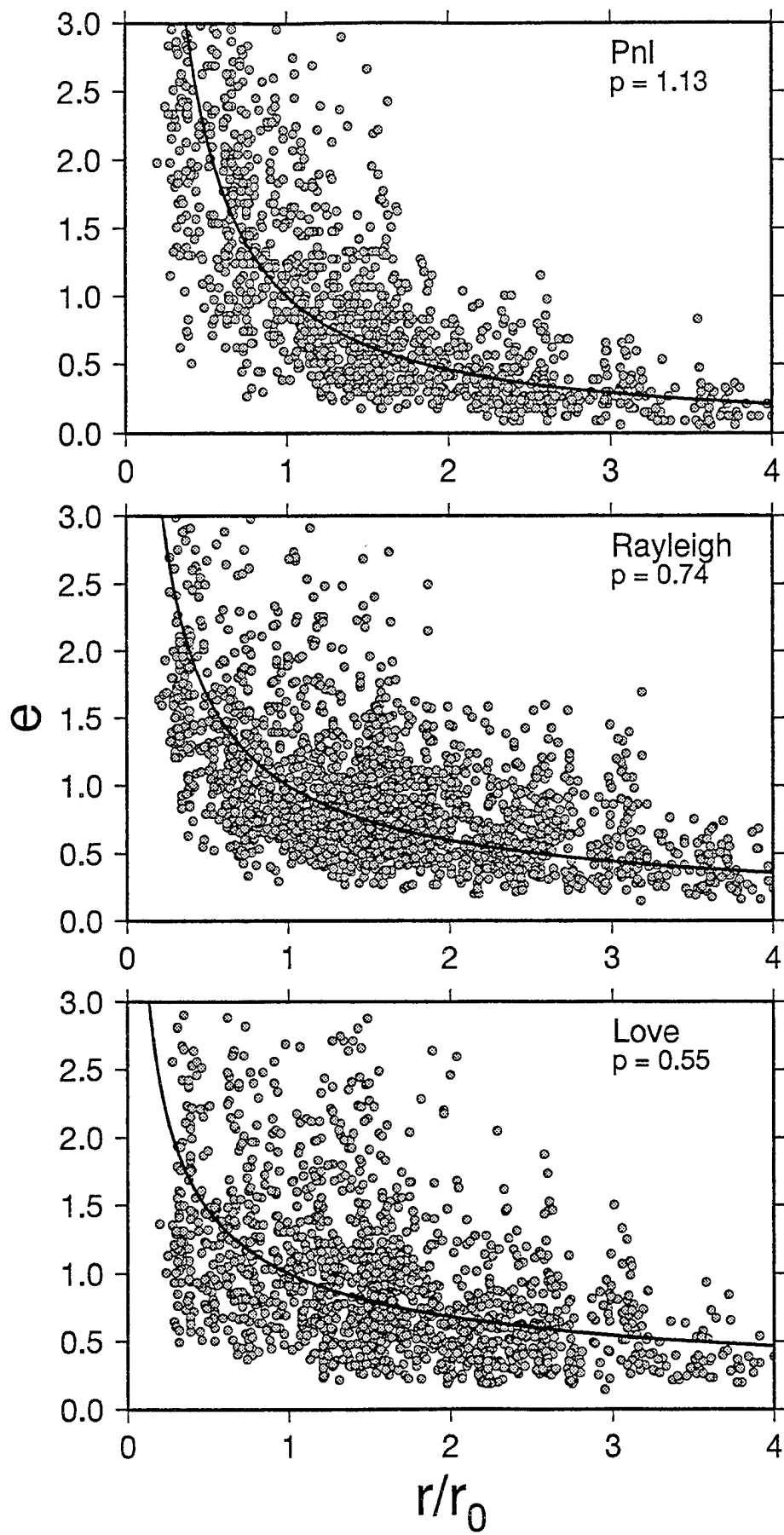


Figure 12
18

essentially follows the relation found by Thatcher and Hanks (1973). But the waveform inverted depths are generally deeper than the catalog depths.

4. Focal Depth Distribution and the Seismogenic Zone in Southern California

Figure 14 shows the histograms of SCEC catalog depths and waveform inversion depths for the 335 events in this study. The catalog depths are determined from arrival times on the southern California short-period network. Large uncertainty exists for these routinely determined depths, mostly due to the severe trade-off between depth and origin time. The most accurate information on depth distribution of seismicity is usually obtained from aftershock sequences during which temporary recorders are deployed directly above the rupture. However, the interpretation of aftershocks can be complicated because the mainshock greatly changes the local stress field. Preshocks and background events probably provide a more accurate picture of the evolving stress field. Since our waveform inversion technique conserves the amplitude information among various crustal phases, source depths should be better constrained, even for small magnitude earthquakes.

The depth distribution obtained from waveforms inversion shows a strong peak at about 12~km with few events occurring above 5~km and below 20~km. This seems quite compatible with the expected seismogenic zone for an tectonic active region as southern California. It is generally thought that the lower boundary of seismogenic zone is due to a transition from brittle to ductile behavior in continental crust (Meissner and Strehlau, 1982; Sibson, 1984; Doser and Kanamori, 1986). The top of seismogenic zone is controlled by a transition from stable sliding to stick slip, which can be attributed to the presence of unconsolidated fault gouge (Marone and Scholz, 1988). For a region overlain by sedimentary structures of unconsolidated material and with well-developed faults, they predict a minimum source depth of 3-5~km, which agrees well with our results.

5. Estimation of Seismic Energy and Discriminants

Because the misfit errors defined in Zhao and Helmberger (1994) and others (Wallace and Helmberger, 1982; Fan *et al.*, 1994) are normalized by the data and synthetics, the amplitude information in the data has not been fully utilized to constrain the source orientation and depth. Thus, we can strengthen the CAP technique by removing this normalization and allowing better use of amplitude information. As multiple stations at different distance ranges are often used in source inversion, we will also investigate the amplitude decay with distance range and correct it by introducing a distance scaling factor.

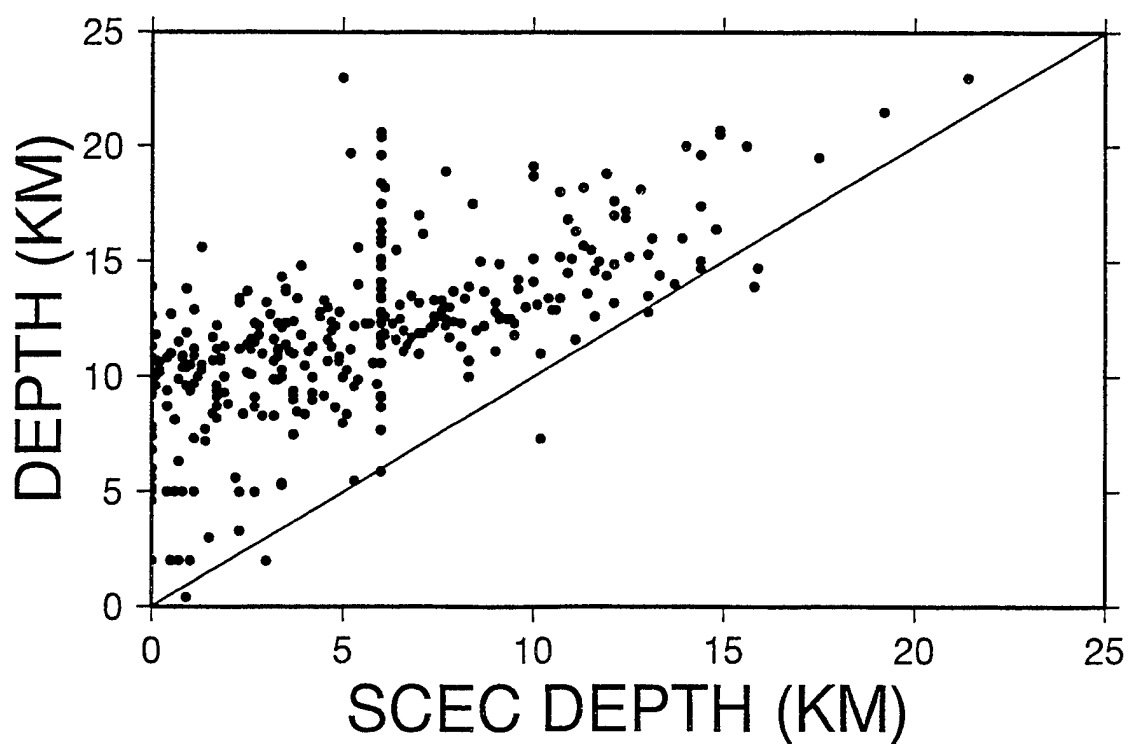
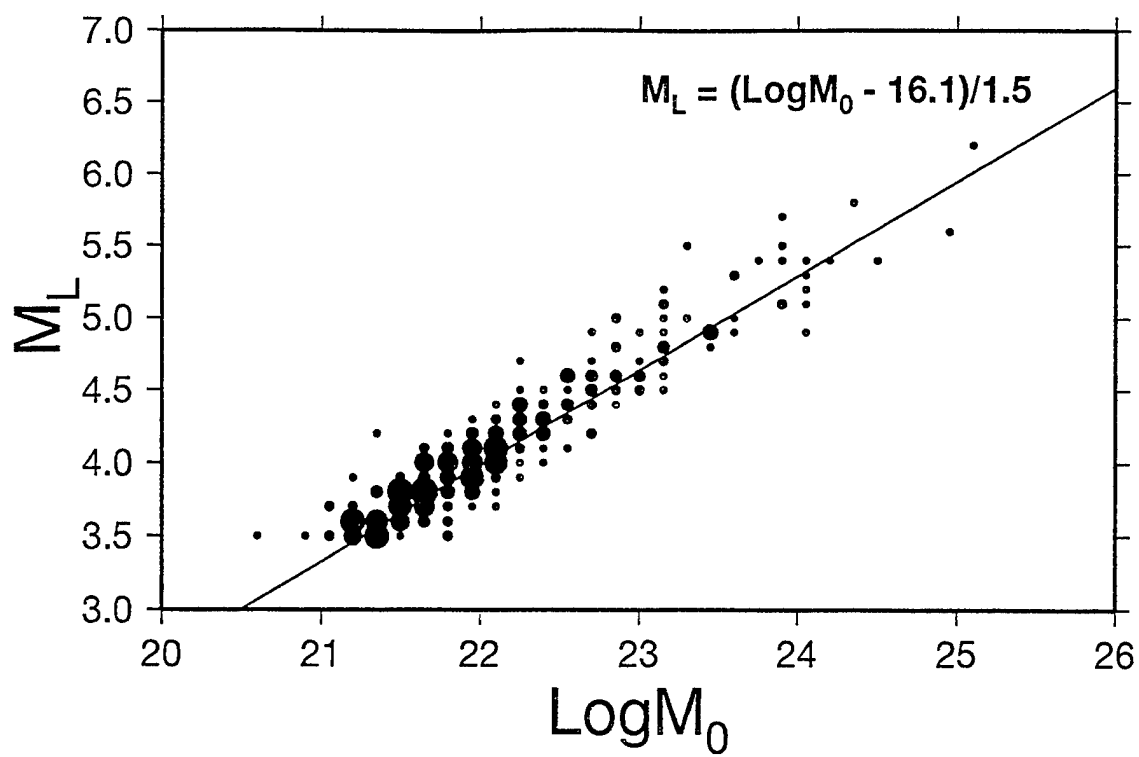


Figure 13

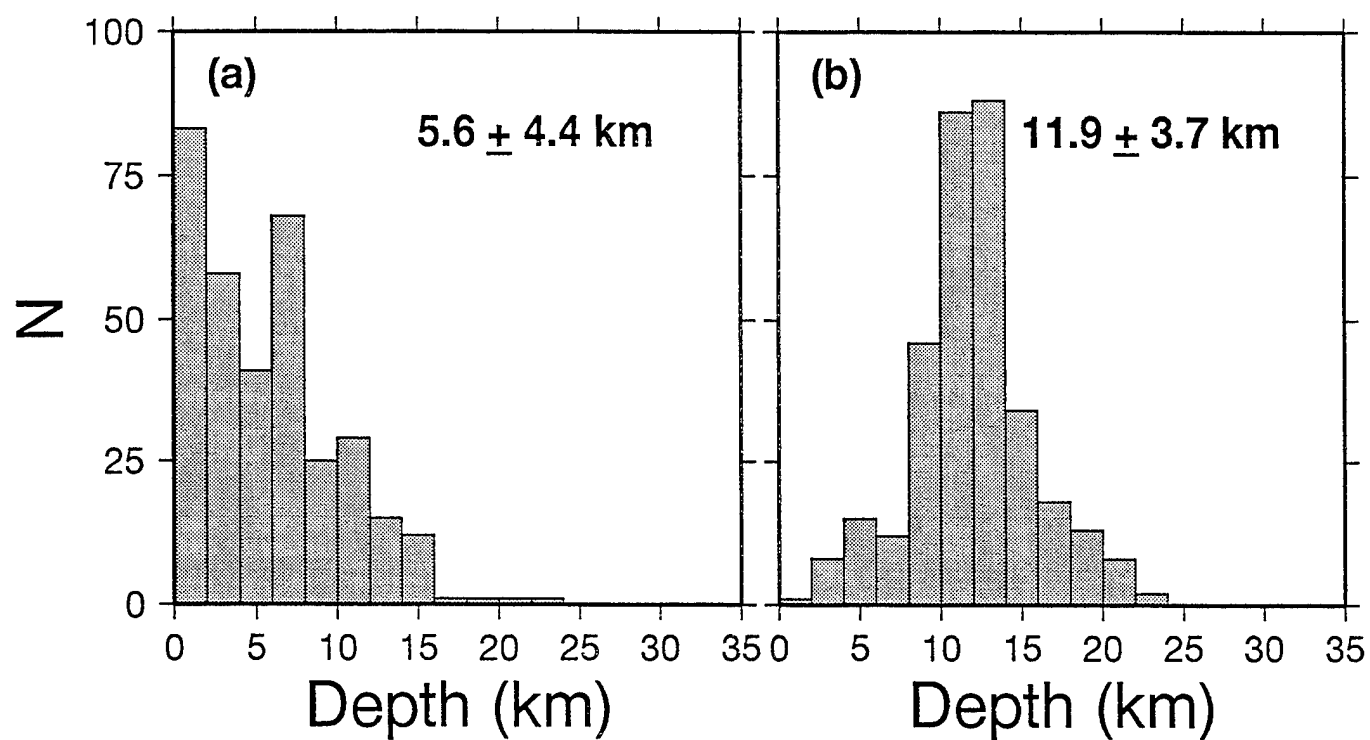


Figure 14

With the advent of broadband instrumentation, it is possible to make some useful estimates of the energy levels of sources. This is especially attractive at local and regional distances before the strong attenuation of the upper mantle has stripped away the higher frequencies. However, we must be able to correct for the strong propagational effects produced by the crust before obtaining accurate energy estimates.

We proceed by making some useful definitions in terms of a source time history needed to make definitive broadband moment estimates. Because energy depends on velocity, we must be careful in defining the time history, especially at the highest frequency. The approach followed here is to base this estimate on the P_{nl} window which we think is the least contaminated by the complex surface layer. Since the WASP records are difficult to match in waveform, we choose to base the time history on that triangle, dt_i , which best predicts the energy ratio of synthetic (WASP/LP) to that of the observations. The broadband moment (M_B) is defined as the best fitting synthetic to the observed data assuming this time history with the orientation parameters determined by the long-period fit.

In the same fashion as M_B we define the energy moment, M_E , to be the ratio of the total integrated broadband energy (3 components) divided by the corresponding integrated Green's functions. To be more specific we will write down the explicit expressions for the tangential component, we define

$$M = V_{obs}(t) / V_g(t) \quad (6)$$

where

M = moment

$V_g(t)$ = synthetic for a particular far-field source history, $\dot{D}(t)$

$V_{obs}(t)$ = observed record We define $M = M_0$ when these amplitude comparisons are performed at long-periods, and M_B when performed with the $\dot{D}(t)$ fixed by the (SPZ/LP) ratio. The energy strength is defined by

$$M_E = \left[\int_0^T \dot{V}_{obs}^2(t) dt / \int_0^T \dot{V}_g^2(t) dt \right]^{1/2} \quad (7)$$

where T is the length of the records. This same procedure is applied to all components and averaged to define the M 's for a particular event. If the synthetics fit the observed data exactly, we would obtain M_E equal to M_B or a ratio (M_E/M_B) of 1.

Applying this formalism to the Little Skull Mountain main event we obtain broadband fits nearly identical to those in Figure 8. We obtain a time history given by $\delta t_i = 0.3$ secs. The corresponding short-period comparisons of synthetics with observations are displayed in Figure 15. These comparisons are quite good and are typical of results from other events, see Zhao and Helmberger (1996).

We do not want definitions of source properties such as moment and energy to depend on the range or receiver. Thus, we can check the usefulness of our definitions by plotting (M_E/M_B) as a function of distance and model as in Figure 16. Most of the points fall between .5 and 1.5. This plot shows no obvious distance dependence suggesting that our path corrections are adequate. However, there is a slight baseline shift with the PB model yielding slightly higher values. But in general, the various moments and source parameter appear to be quite independent of model if we treat deep sources, i.e., $d > 5$ km. Note that the more detailed the upper portion of the model becomes, the more likely it will become path dependent. If we want to use the same model for a large region, we want to keep the model simple and restrict the source depths accordingly.

With this brief review of source estimation, we return to the observations displayed in Figure 2. Note that while the peak short-period (SP) amplitudes are similar, the long-period outputs are an order-of-magnitude different. This comparison is typical (Woods *et al.*, 1993). Also, note that the explosion data contains many more arrivals or energy than do the earthquake traces. Therefore, if we simply compare the ratio of (M_E/M_B) , we should distinguish the two types of events. But to do this, we must first obtain estimates of M_O , M_B , and M_E from explosions. We do this by assuming all events are earthquakes or double-couple's. An example calculation is given in Figure 17.

In this match of synthetics to observations, we have used the (WASP/WALP) ratio to fit the time history because of the noise in the LP bandpass. A value of (.1,.1) triangle was obtained. While the short-period details are not well explained, the overall estimate of long-period waveform fits is reasonable. We obtain a moment of 1.1×10^{22} dyne-cm and a source orientation of $(220^\circ, 30^\circ, 115^\circ)$ for strike, dip, and rake. The source depth search preferred the depth of 5 km which is the shallowest depth allowed. Woods *et al.* (1993) obtained a $M_O = 3 \times 10^{21}$ dyne-cm for this event or about 4 times smaller than the above estimate. This difference is expected because of the relative strengths of Rayleigh wave Green's functions for two reasons. First, since the excitation of Rayleigh waves per unit of moment is stronger at the shallower depth, we can understand why a larger moment is needed to fit the data assuming a depth of 5 km. Second, since the radiation pattern for an earthquake is always less than for an explosion, we again require an increased moment to compensate. The M_B moment is obtained by

matching the amplitudes in the upper two plots yielding $.5 \times 10^{22}$ dyne-cm, which is lower than M_0 . This is caused by the short-period spikes riding on top of the observed Rayleigh waves; something which does not occur in the synthetics but holds true for most observations of explosions. Thus, the M_B measure from explosions is not a very good measure of source strength since it appears to be affected by these short-period spikes. The M_E measure is also strongly affected by these spikes and decreased accordingly. However, the extra arrivals occurring in the observations increase M_E , yielding $M_E = 1.2 \times 10^{22}$ dyne-cm or a ratio of $M_E/M_B = 2.3$. Earthquakes yield values near unity as discussed above, thus it is an effective depth discriminant. Figure 18 shows the results for NTS explosions and southwestern U. S. earthquakes. Each point represents one event.

A more empirical approach is to use the short-period:long-period (SP:LP) ratio. The source properties that we want to quantify are the short-period (1 Hz) P-wave and long-period (0.14 to 0.05 Hz) surface wave energy levels, the ratio of which is used as the discrimination criterion. The short-period bandpass is the same used to measure teleseismic P-wave amplitudes for the $m_b:M_s$ discriminant. The long-period bandpass represents the predominant frequency range of the fundamental-mode Airy Phase at regional distances (Alewine, 1972). This short-period vs. long-period energy ratio ($E_{SP:LP}$) is defined as:

$$E_{SP:LP} = \frac{\int_{t_{pn}}^{t_{sn}} v_{sp}(t)^2 dt}{\sum_{i=1}^3 \int_{t_1}^{t_2} v_{lp}(t)^2 dt}, \quad (8)$$

with the summation being for the three components and t_i representing the windowing times determined from travel path length and the wave train of interest; t_{pn} corresponds to the time before the onset of the P-wave and t_{sn} the time prior to the S-wave onset time, and t_1 and t_2 bracket the time window of the fundamental Rayleigh and Love waves. v_{sp} and v_{lp} are the short-period and long-period ground bandpass velocities, respectively. v_{sp} is obtained by convolving the broadband velocity record convolved with a Wood-Anderson (WA) short-period instrument and v_{lp} is the broadband velocity record convolved with a long-period instrument (PE). The velocities are squared in order to obtain units of energy; the factor of $m/2$ in the numerator and denominator, where m is the unit mass of the particle of motion, cancel out.

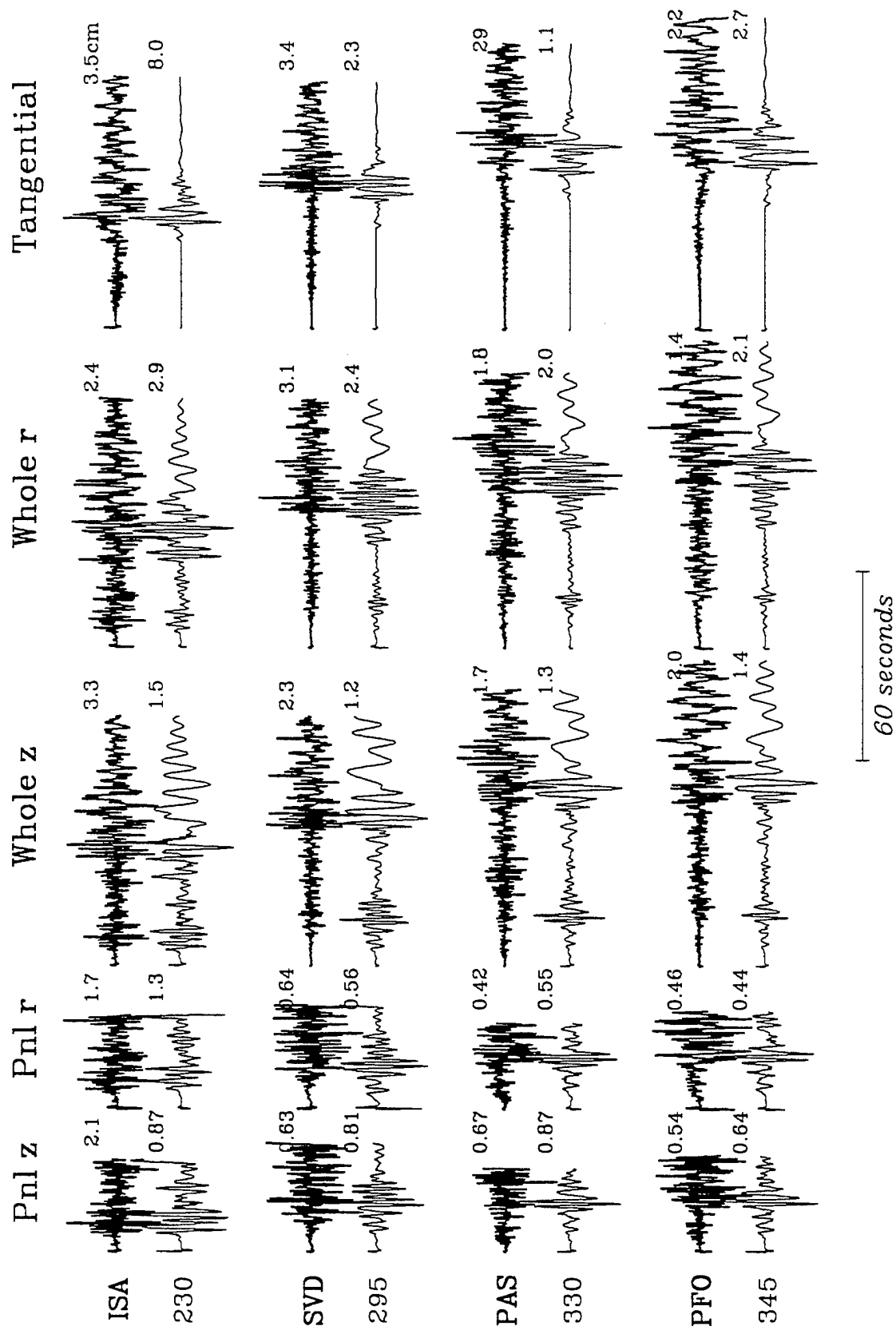


Figure 15

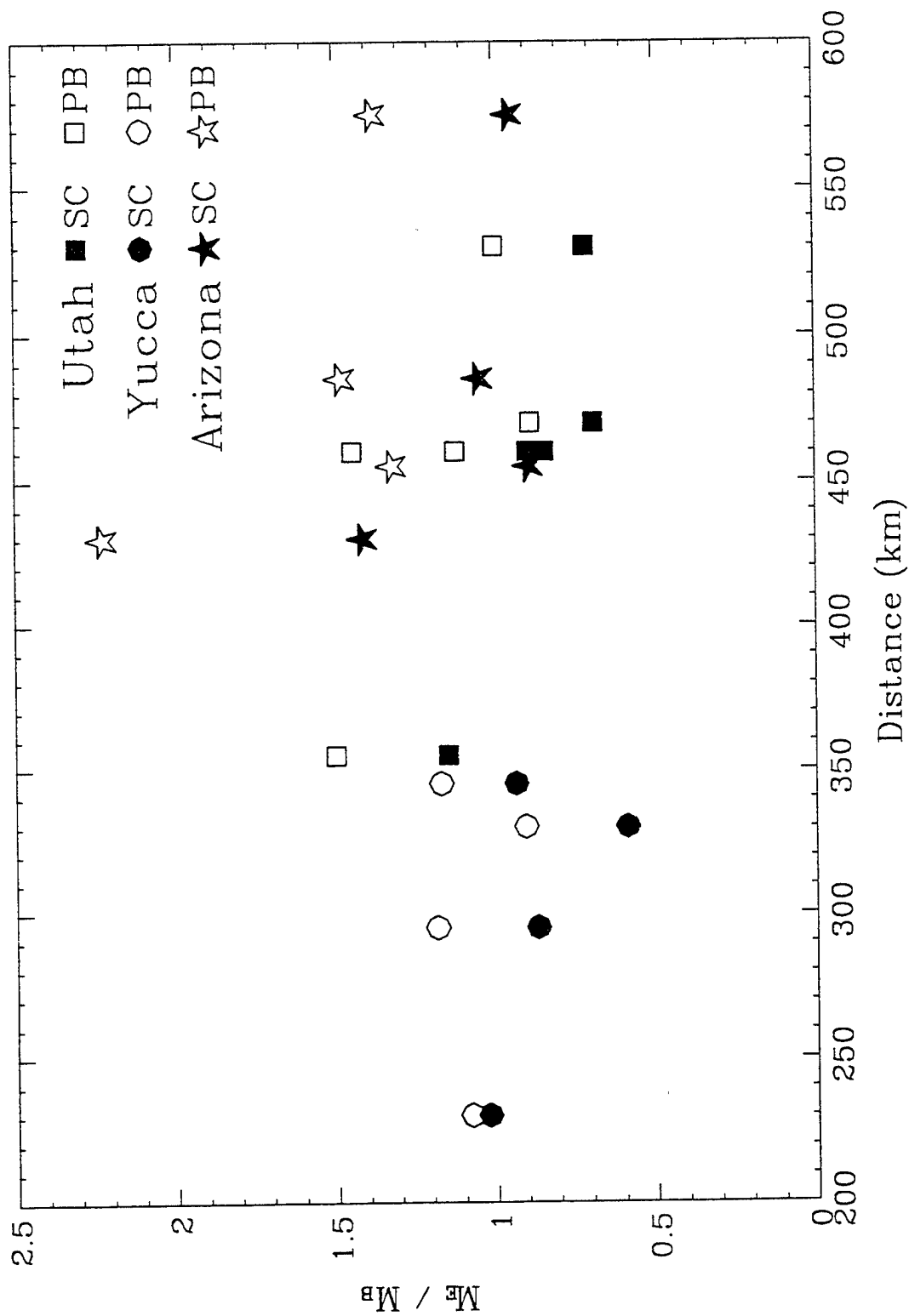


Figure 16

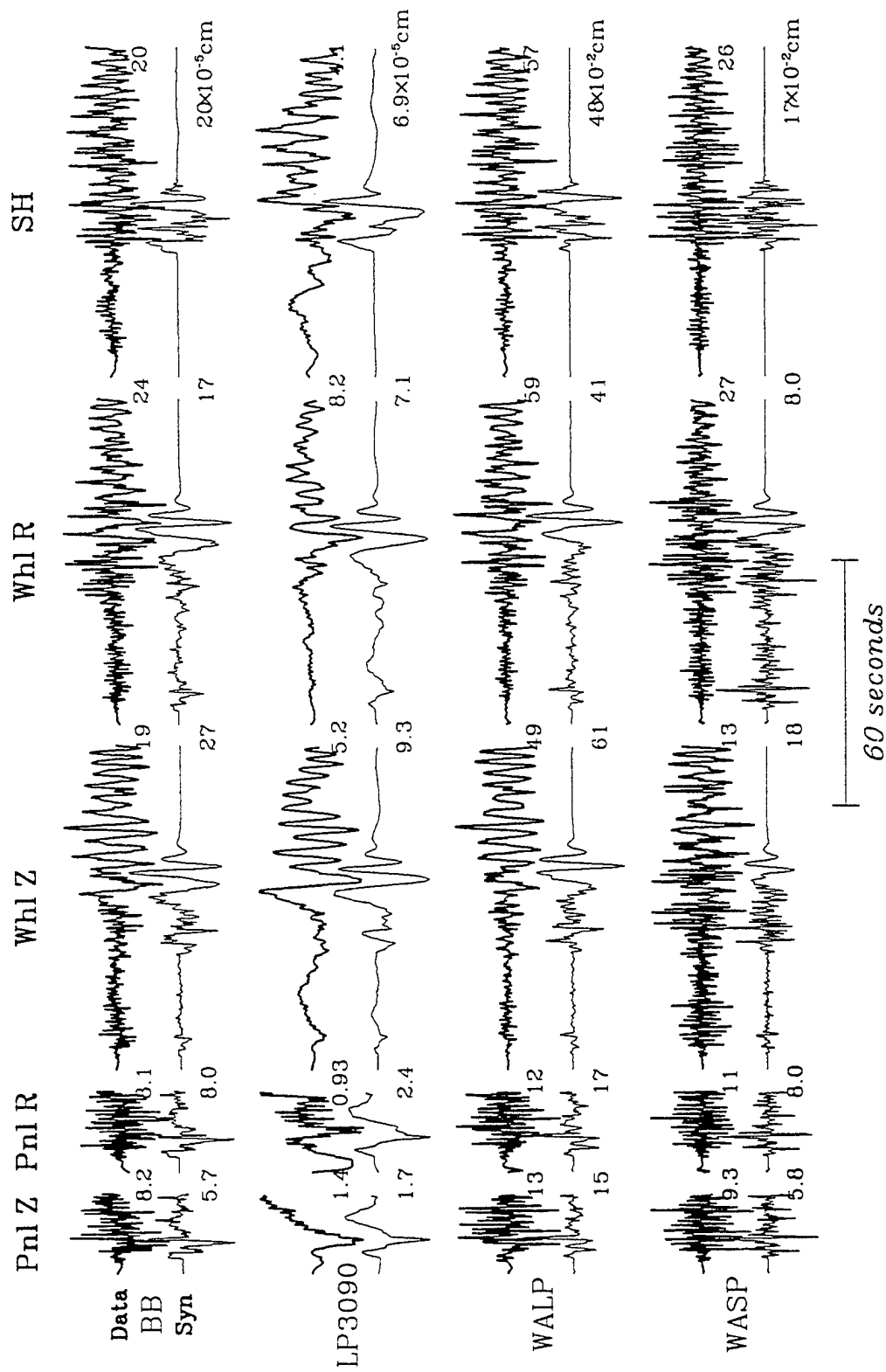


Figure 17

Figure 19 displays the log SP:LP integrated energy ratio vs. distance for all data; each data point represents one event-station pair. Crosses represent earthquakes, circles signify nuclear explosions, and stars are data points for the chemical kt test. The explosions tend to have higher SP:LP integrated energy ratios than do the earthquakes at all distance ranges. Although there isn't complete separation of the two populations, the portion of the earthquake population which overlaps with the explosion population is small (approximately 10 percent).

6. Discussion

In order to better appreciate the robustness of these energy measurements and their application to particularly small events, we will show a suite of regional waveforms and their associated integrated energy curves for small explosions from the three NTS subsites and for earthquakes near NTS, namely the Little Skull Mountain sequence. We will also briefly discuss Northridge observations displaying some obvious scattering effects produced by surface geology.

As noted earlier, NTS records are in sharp contrast to natural earthquake records as displayed in Figure 2 where the onset of shear waves is quite clear. These recordings are at fairly near distances so that propagation effects are minimized. However, these characteristics persist to larger ranges, Woods and Helmberger (1996). These waveform characteristics are displayed in the integrated energy curves as well.

The panel on the left in Figure 20 displays the short-period, vertical component, integrated energy curves vs. time for explosions recorded at the four TERRAScope stations. All curves are normalized to unity, with the actual integrated energy value given to the right in the legend. We will refer to these plots as $E(t)$, or accumulated energy up to time t . For records with a prominent P-wavetrain arrival, the curves resemble step functions. This is particularly true of the Pahute shot and expected on theoretical grounds, i.e., RDP source. For the Yucca shot, the P-wavetrain energy comprises less than half of the short-period energy. The Rainier nuclear explosion and chemical blast are intermediate in shape to the Pahute and Yucca energy curves. At the more distant stations (PAS and PFO), the Rainier energy curves more closely resemble those of Yucca than Pahute, whereas at the closer stations, particularly ISA, the opposite is true.

The panel on the right in Figure 20 displays analogous plots of integrated energy curves for earthquakes from the Little Skull Mountain sequence. Here the onset of the S-wave energy is pronounced and sharp. For explosions, in general, the S-wave onset is much more gradual, with the exception of the Yucca event recorded at PFO, which looks very much like the earthquake energy curves. It is not clear whether these differences are

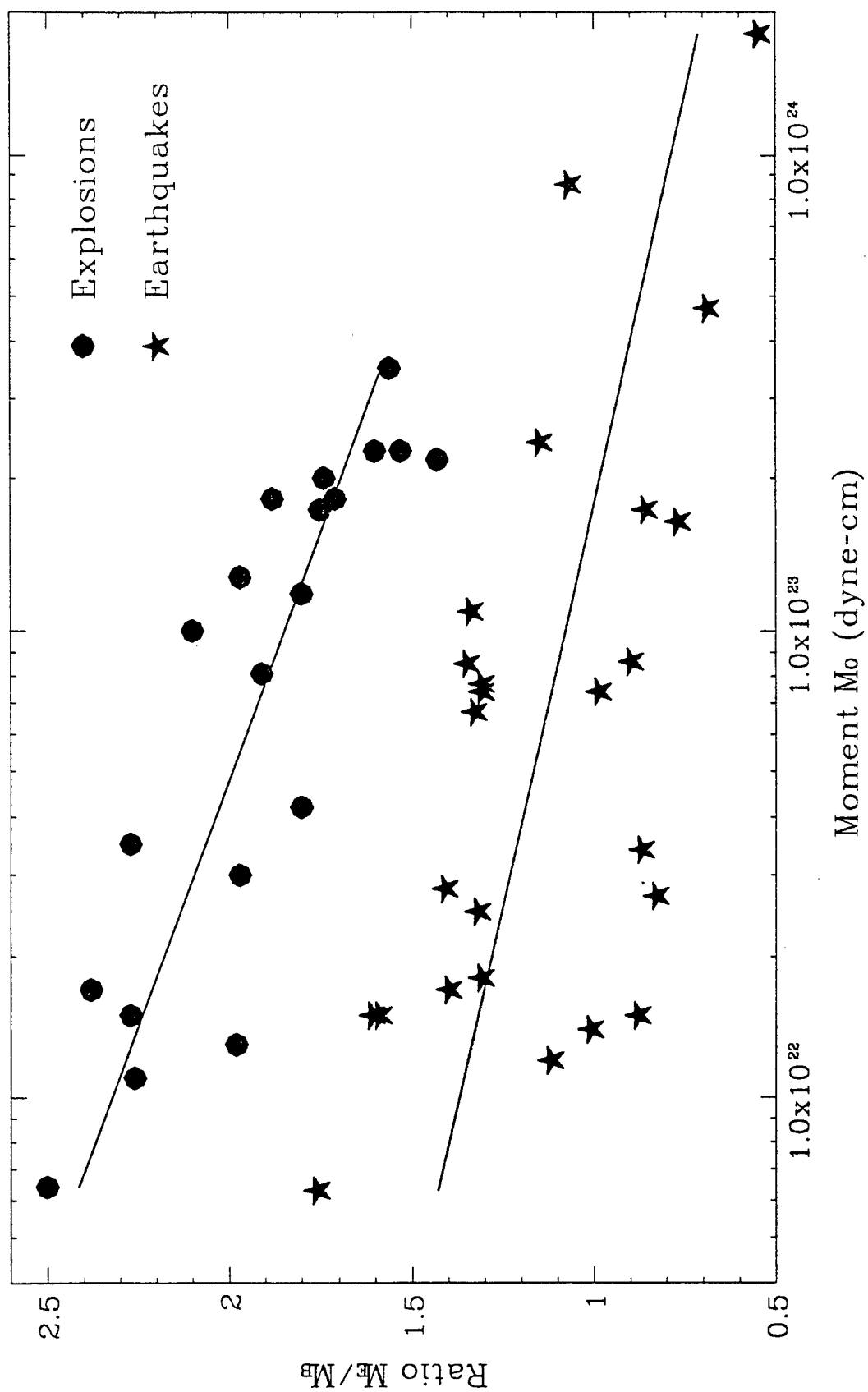


Figure 18

due to near-source or propagation effects. In the case of Yucca Flat for which the energy curve at each station deviates significantly from the "cleaner" Pahute curve, it seems likely that shallow structure in the source region is at least partly responsible for the large amount of scattered energy in the waveforms.

Several investigations have discussed the scattering of locally trapped Rayleigh waves encountering NTS type structures, see for example, McLaughlin and Jih (1987), and Stead and Helmberger (1988). However, explaining all three components of regional NTS events (Figure 3) proves especially difficult because of the amount of tangential energy generally observed. Thus, the scattering must be due to a 3-D feature and/or requires secondary sources such as spall, etc. In short, it is difficult to predict regional records using the conventional RDP formalism.

An easier problem that has been studied quite successfully involves modeling events occurring along a corridor from Imperial Valley to Pasadena, essentially events on the San Jacinto fault zone, see Helmberger *et al.* (1992), and Ho and Helmberger (1989). Events occurring in the Imperial Valley arrive at Pasadena with extensive coda compared to events occurring outside the basin, see Figure 21. The upper panel displays a 2-D model connecting Imperial Valley to Pasadena (260 km). The (AN) event occurred near the edge while the (IV) event is located well into the basin. Basin events not only have well developed dispersion but many times have secondary arrivals. The shallower the event, the stronger these later arrivals. These signals can be modeled as shallow surface waves propagating slowly in the upper layer and re-radiating at the basin edge, and can be the strongest signals on the record if the source extends to the surface, see Ho and Helmberger (1989). Thus, it is relatively easy to explain the excess energy associated with shallow events occurring in soft materials from a theoretical point-of-view.

The same features observed from the Imperial Valley events can be seen in the Northridge data, Song and Helmberger (1996). As an example of this complexity, we compare the vertical broadband and short-period displacement data and cumulative energy curves for stations GSC and PFO, for 3 earthquakes at different depths (Figure 22). These three events occurred under the Santa Susana Mountains within 10 km of each other. Note the difference in the Rayleigh wavetrain between the records at GSC and PFO for the various event. Energy arrives at station GSC in a time window narrower than at station PFO. These features also show up on the short-period records. As the source gets deeper, this difference becomes less significant. Scattering due to the more heterogeneous structure from Northridge to PFO would be one reason for this difference. Note that the path from Northridge to station GSC is relatively uniform and mainly a hard rock path. Path to PFO passes through the San Fernando basin and part of the Los

SP-LP(3-comp) Ratio vs. Distance

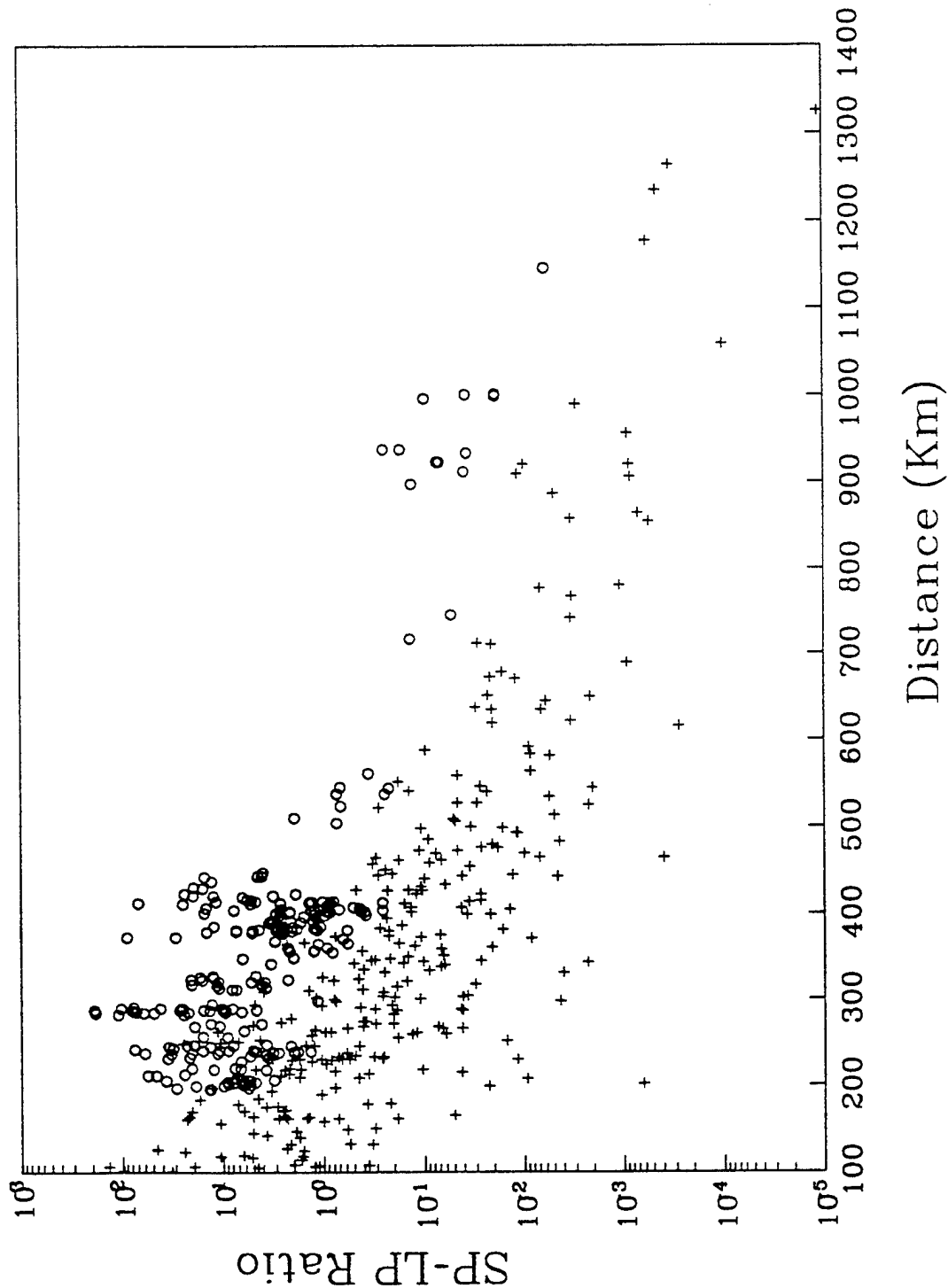


Figure 19

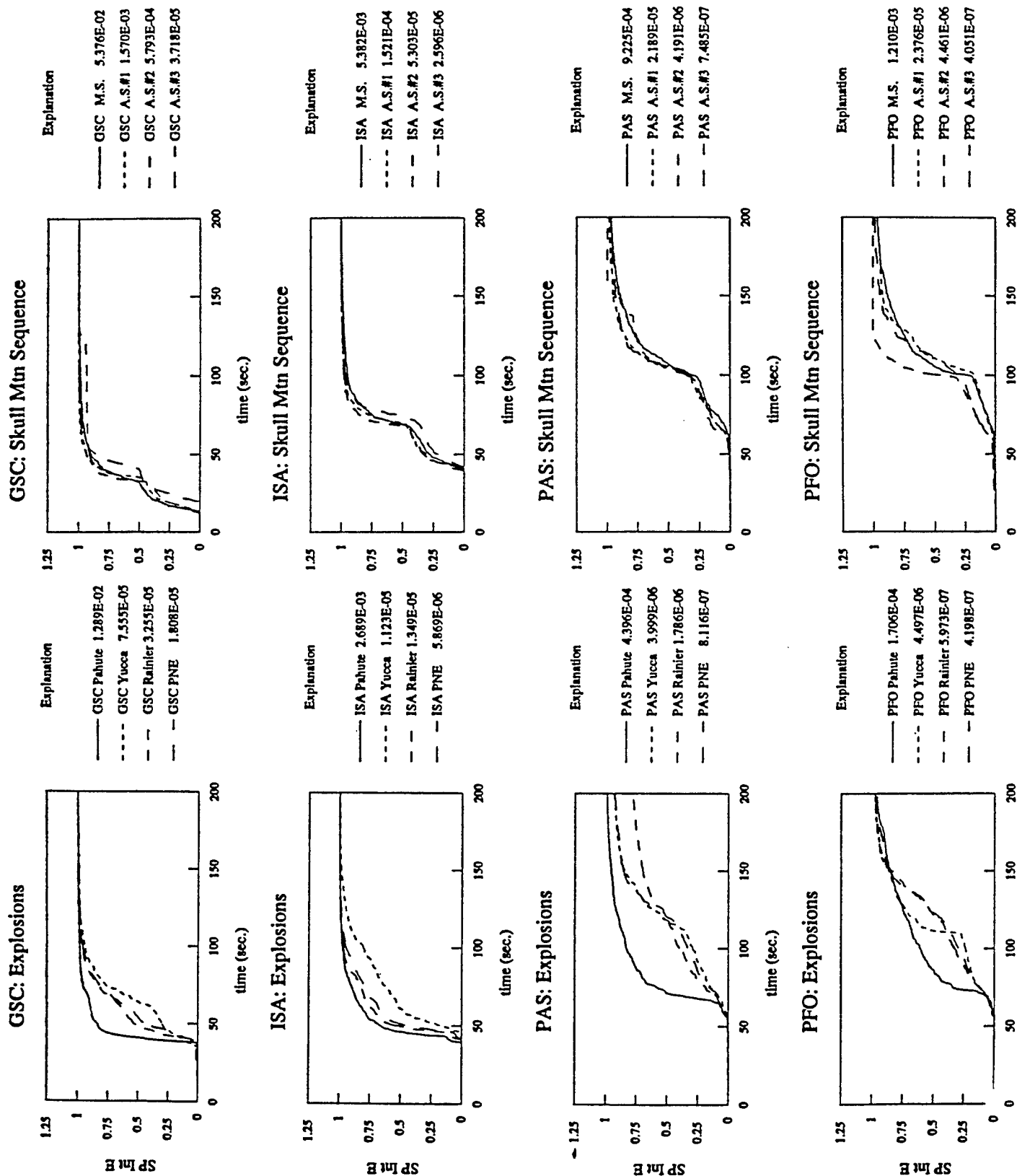


Figure 20

Angeles basin. Another factor that might explain the above difference is the basin effect. For the shallow earthquake, part of the surface wave energy is trapped in the basin and propagates along the top slow layer. This forms the extend Rayleigh wavetrain when it arrives at station PFO. Thus energy arriving at PFO along different paths spreads out in a wider time window, see Song and Helmberger (1996).

Applying this experience to the NTS data, we suggest that the Yucca Flat basin is responsible for the complicated records and that natural earthquakes, which normally occur at deeper depths, are generally easier to model. Thus, the similarity in wave shapes and energy curves allows us to model the large earthquake ($M > 5$) where the signals are above the noise, identify the paths of short-period arrivals and predict their behavior for small events. In short, we think it is easier to understand the short-period phases produced by the Little Skull Mountain events than those produced by the NTS shots. Thus, we propose to identify earthquakes by their wave shapes and energy distributions and identify explosions as being not-like-earthquakes.

In conclusion, we demonstrated that regional seismograms from earthquakes can be used to estimate their fault parameters, moment, and depths applying a procedure developed in Zhao and Helmberger (1994) and extended by Zhu and Helmberger (1996). Next we examined the energy content of the various phases, defined M_B (broadband moment) and M_E (energy strength), and introduced a new method of discrimination. In this method all events are processed as earthquakes, and explosions are distinguished by their stronger energy levels relative to their long-period amplitudes. This was followed by a discussion of a discriminant based on the ratio of short-period (1 Hz), vertical component, P_{nl} wavetrain energy to intermediate-period (0.05 to 0.16 Hz), three component, surface wave energy, for which explosions tend to have a higher ratio than earthquakes. This discriminant works on the same premise as the teleseismic $M_S:m_b$ ratio, for which earthquakes are richer in long-period surface wave energy relative to explosions.

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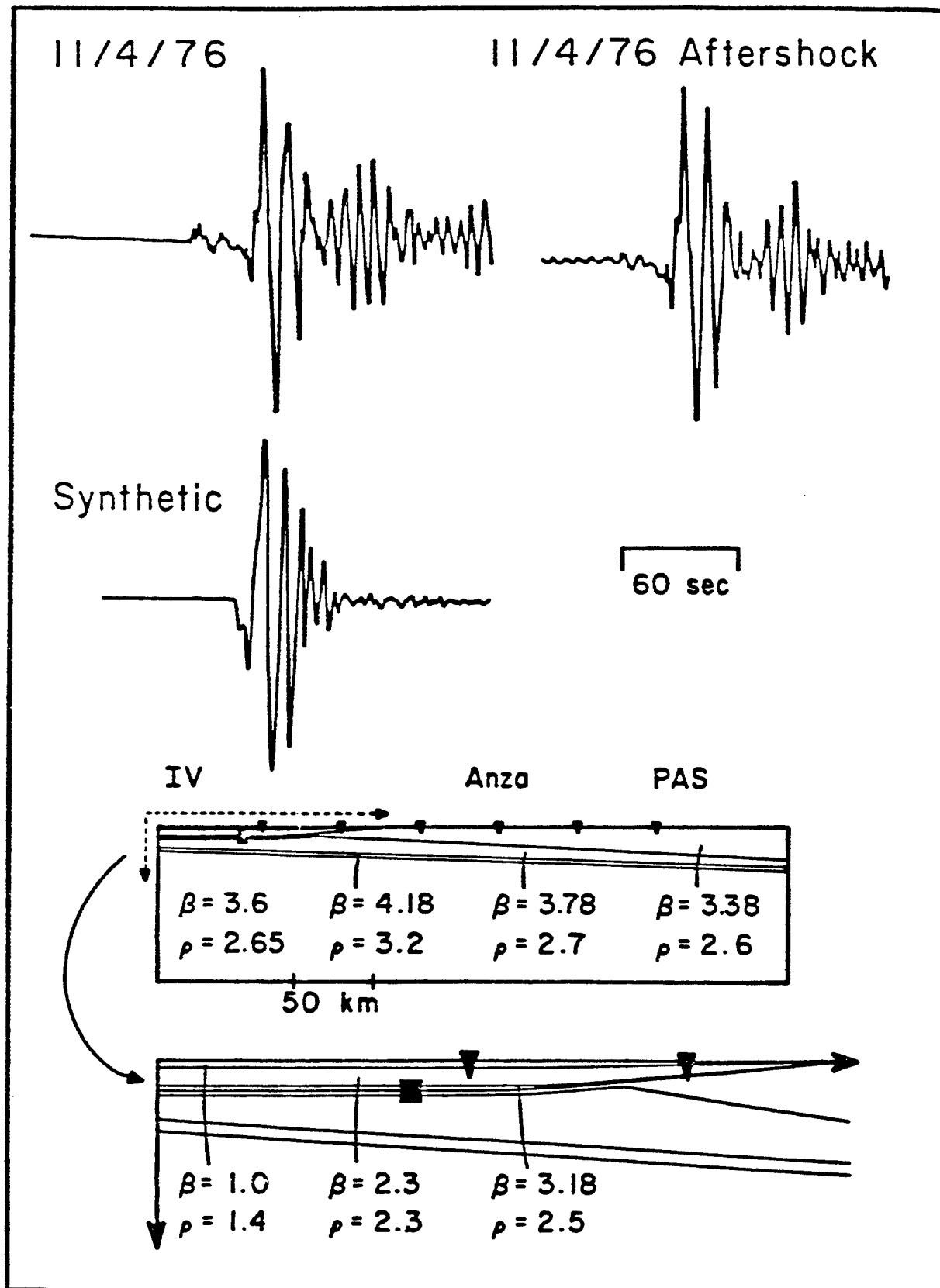


Figure 21

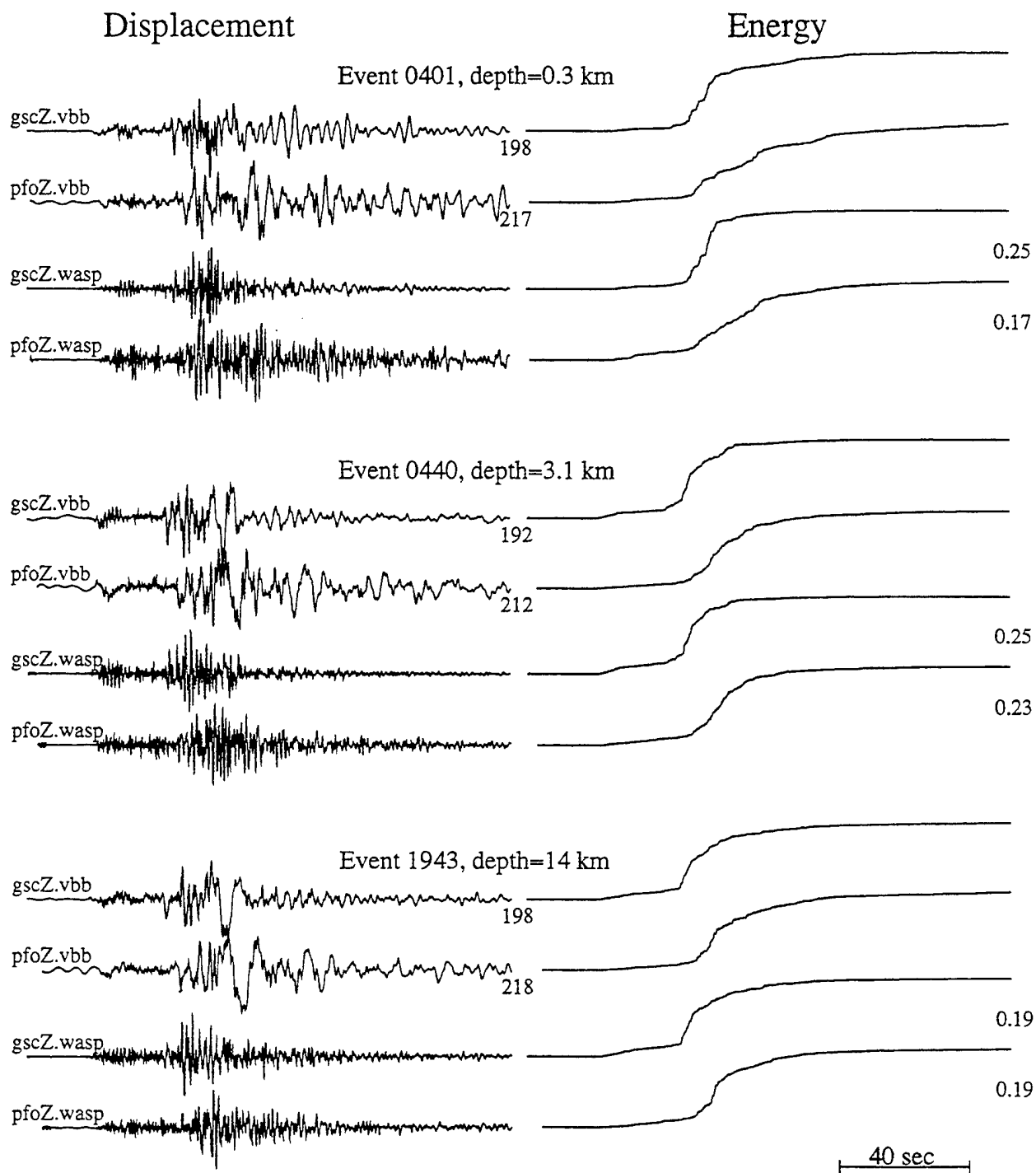


Figure 22

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